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Montgomery campus set for expansion

*Developers hope to create largest
applied research center in country*

By **MARIE CUSHING**
News & Features Editor

Developers have begun to craft a new master plan that would quadruple the size of the University's satellite campus in Montgomery County.

Hopkins hopes to turn the campus and surrounding area into the largest center for applied research in North America, but issues with planning approval and deed restrictions may hinder these plans.

"What started about two years ago as a new master plan for our 108-acre Belward Farm campus has now expanded into a collaborative planning process for the 600-acre combined Shady Grove Life Science Center and Belward Campuses," said David McDonough, senior director of development oversight for Hopkins real estate.

University officials hope this increase in size and scope will create a center for real-world applications of research that is attractive to students.

"Graduates in the area have their diploma in one hand and ticket to Palo Alto or Cambridge in the other," said Elaine
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A taste of spring



Senior Shirley Leong flips burgers at a recent barbecue held for students enrolled in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Vote on new constitution sees dismal turnout

By **KATLYN TORGERSON**
News & Features Editor

A much-maligned Hopkins institution will get a permanent makeover this year when the Student Council, in its current form, is replaced by a new Student Government Association (SGA) to be elected later this month.

The renaming is one of a number of dramatic changes being made to the Council under a new constitution, approved in a student referendum last weekend that saw just a trickle of votes — 187, or just 4 percent.

The SGA will be a governing body composed of distinct legislative, judicial and executive branches. Under the current constitution, Student Council does not have an official judiciary branch.

Current Executive President Scott Bierbryer said they decided to write a new constitution because, from his perspective, the current constitution has never been implemented correctly.

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Selectivity remains steady as applications rise

By **MICHAEL PISEM**
For The News-Letter

In another year of highly competitive admissions, Hopkins continues to be highly selective with a 25 percent acceptance rate.

The class of 2012 was selected from a pool of 16,006 applicants hailing from around the world. The number of applications was a new record for the University, topping the 14,842 of 2007 and elongating a six-year period of continued growth.

Decisions were mailed out Monday, amid tuition increases and a weakening economy.

William Conley, dean of enrollment and academic services, said he does not believe next year's increase in tuition will dissuade admitted students from enrolling.

"The 5-percent increase will not affect our attractiveness," Conley said.

However, John Latting, dean of un-

dergraduate admissions conceded that "Hopkins is falling behind compared to other schools" in financial aid, but also said that "financial aid is our top priority."

Sixty-three percent of applicants applied for financial aid from the University,
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LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Freshman class president Dan Teran was involved in authoring the new constitution.



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

Development plans will both increase the size of the current campus and add a new location.

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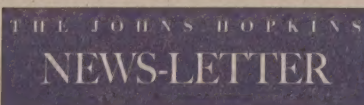
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CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

A panelist considers a talking point in the discussion on Iranian nuclear development on Tuesday night.

Panel discusses American gov't response to Iran's nuclear program

By **JAMES ZHE**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Under the bright lights of the Glass Pavilion, members of the Hopkins community gathered to hear about one of the most controversial issues in world politics: the alleged nuclear weapons programs in Iran.

The three-person panel on Tuesday night included thought-provoking speeches, including strong critiques of American and journalist investigations in the area.

The most critical speaker was Kaveh Afrasiabi, who has participated in years of negotiations between the Iranian government and the United Nations. Afrasiabi provided a factual insider's view of the alleged Iranian nuclear weapons program.

Contrary to the many popular media reports, Afrasiabi said that investigations undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had found no evidence of a nuclear weapons program in Iran.

He criticized the international media for not objectively and factually reporting IAEA findings and for misleading public sentiments.

A report issued in February of this year by the IAEA also suggested that Iran's nuclear program is mainly peaceful and is too limited in scope to accommodate a full-scale nuclear weapons program.

"Every IAEA inspector also assured me that if Iran attempts to secretly divert to an enrichment weapons program, it would be certain that it would be detected by any IAEA inspector. In order to divert to a weapons program, there would have been a massive re-calibration of nuclear facilities, and that would be easily detectable by any IAEA inspector," Afrasiabi said.

He felt that media reports were portraying a "demonic Iranian nuclear weapons program," when there is "absolutely no evidence to support this fact in the first place."

He also declared that intelligence re-
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Committee suggests fix for large class size complaints

By **MAX McKENNA**
News & Features Editor

Students may use a new feedback system to evaluate courses part-way through the semester in order to help address poor attendance and a lack of student interest in large lecture classes.

In response to student and faculty concerns about the impersonality of heavily populated introductory classes, like those in chemistry and economics, the Curriculum Committee will consider having course evaluations mid-semester in addition to at the end of semesters.

The Committee, which is made up of students, faculty and administrators, hopes this new policy will also encourage more students to evaluate their courses.

"Large class sizes tend to have a poorer quality of education," said Nick Kreston, a student member of the Curriculum Committee. "People want to see an improvement in the quality of education."

Tyler Kruse, a physics and mathematics major who also sits on the Committee, echoed Kreston's sentiments. For Kruse, large classes promote a vicious cycle that ends in decreased student interest and less learning.

"Instructors and TAs have large classes, which causes students to skip class, which cause educators to
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NEWS & FEATURES

Admissions rate hovers at 25 percent

Committee addresses large classes

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and of those, 58 percent were granted some tuition assistance. About 10 percent of those admitted were offered packages that would make their total contribution only \$5,000 over four years.

According to Latting, it is assumed that those families with an adjusted gross income of less than \$50,000 a year will receive aid, though "some families have not completed the financial aid process," Latting said.

The University has approved more financial aid for this coming year than ever before, totaling a \$1 million increase in budget, according to Latting. The total amount in the budget is not disclosed, but Conley said it was larger this year "in both raw numbers and percentage" than ever before.

Both deans conceded that there was a grave shortfall in the amount of financial aid granted by Hopkins.

"Our endowment is not as high as our competitors," Conley said.

He explained that although the Hopkins endowment is large, it is "spread over nine divisions," and he "does not know how things will go in the future" for financial aid.

The solution, according to Latting, is in "new giving" and will only come through "a long conversation with alumni." In the interim, the dean sees a "disproportionate effect on low income people," which, in the long-run, will make "Hopkins have more affluent students."

Conley was quick to say that "it is not about the sticker price."

He said he was confident that the weakened economy would make "people look and see what their four-year prospects are," and the University would provide "at the same basic proportions" as it does today.

For now, the numbers for accepted students are imposing:

The mean SAT scores came to 720 for reading, 750 for math and 720 for writing.

Applicants were accepted from all 50 states, with New York (545), California (460), New Jersey (412), Maryland (410) and Pennsylvania (295) topping the list. About 7 percent, or 254 students, hail from abroad.

Moving closer to perfect parity, women comprised 49 percent of accepted students.

Last year, women comprised 48 percent of those accepted, while 11 years ago they comprised only 40 percent.

Forty-five percent of applicants self-identified as Caucasian, 27 percent as Asian, 9 percent as black or African Americans, 9 percent as Hispanic or Latino and .73 percent as Native American. The rest declined to identify with an ethnicity.

This year's 25 percent accep-

ance rate is up from 24 percent the year before, accounted for by a projected increase in the size of the freshman class by 30 students.

While concerned for the future, the administration is focused on increasing the size of the applicant pool and getting the word out about Hopkins.

"Our growth in applications has been much larger than that of our competition," Conley said,

adding that this was because of "better presentation, showing off our beautiful campus and just getting the word out."

But, Conley claimed, "we are not motivated by rankings."

Conley said that he did not anticipate any movement in Hopkins's placing in the vaunted *U.S. News and World Report* rankings, and said that Hopkins was comfortable in the top 20, which he referred to as "the gold standard."

Our growth in applications has been much larger than that of our competition.

— WILLIAM CONLEY,
DEAN OF ENROLLMENT
AND ACADEMIC SERVICES



BRITNI CROCKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dean Conley says the effort to show off the campus has helped increase applicants.

Mid-semester course evaluations could improve communication between students and profs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

become frustrated and provide poorer lessons, which cause more students to skip, and so on," he said.

Mid-semester evaluations, one of the Committee's suggested "quick-fixes" to the shortcomings of large-size classes, would give professors a sense early on of what aspects of the course are most and least successful with students. In this way, professors may adjust their teaching styles and course agendas to better reflect what the students expect from the course.

David Bell, dean of faculty, said course evaluations are useful tools to professors and instructors.

"Most faculty read the evaluations very closely," he said. "There will always be a range of opinion, but, overall, they give professors a clear sense of what works in their classes."

Bell believes that, if done correctly, a mid-term evaluation has the potential to be very useful.

"If you have a professor who simply talks too fast, that's easy to correct, but that professor must be told," he said.

He also noted other issues students may want to make professors aware of, such as time for question and schedules of office hours.

Large class sizes themselves are not the problem, but the effects that come from having a large class, according to Dean of Undergraduate Education Paula Burger, are problematic. Burger, who chairs the Arts and Sciences division of the Committee, points to Contemporary International Politics, a large class she said many students have told her is one of the best classes they have taken.

"The central focus of our efforts in the dean's office has been, over the years, to enhance these courses, rather than simply to make them smaller," Burger said.

Grading on a curve, lack of preparation of teaching assistants and the fact that many students do not find large introductory classes interesting are the primary problems of large-size classes, according to Burger.

Kruse and Kreston added boring lectures and subsequent lack of attention from students to this list.

Gregory Ball, a professor of psychology, said that a lack of access to the instructors and teaching assistants is a concern for professors teaching large classes.

"I know that the faculty teaching these large classes work hard to provide help and feedback to the students. I also know that they are successful in many cases. However, we should always be examining our practices, especially when something like class size is increasing to ensure that we are serving the students well," he said.

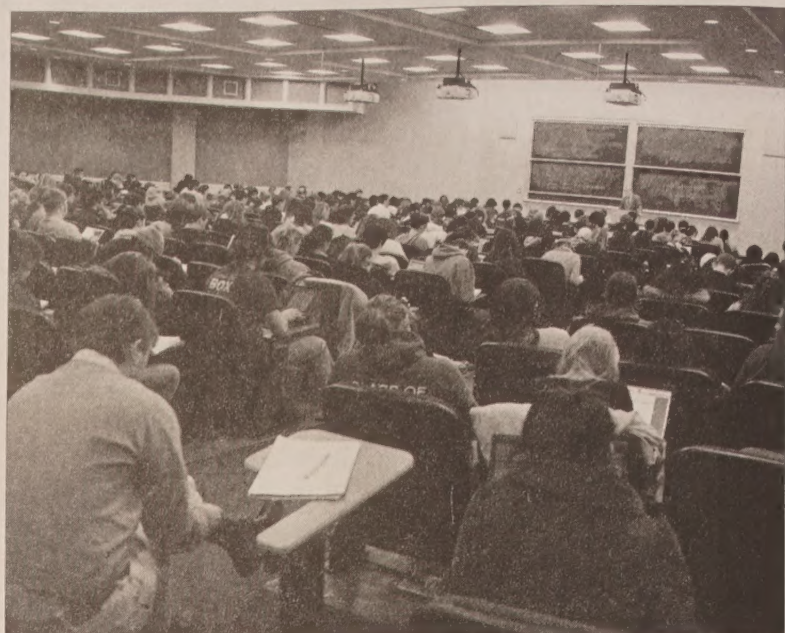
The issue of poor attendance is at the forefront of the Committee's motives.

"You're going to have kids who skip class no matter what," Kreston said. "If kids skip class because they're reading from a Power Point the whole time, or a professor's reading from a Power Point, it's because they don't feel it's worth it. But it's professionally offensive when students don't come to class."

Students and faculty agree that large classes cannot be eliminated altogether.

"Half the kids at Hopkins take Intro Chemistry, and with that you are going to have large classes, there's no getting around it," David Bell said.

Bell explained the faculty



FILE PHOTO

The Curriculum Committee hopes to address the lack of student participation in large intro classes.

would like to have smaller classes and have as few classes as possible with TAs, but this is not possible in all cases. To reduce class sizes, he said, the University may make more courses available or cap particular courses.

"Some instructors are just very popular with students," he said.

Some large classes work effectively, according to Gregory Ball, who is also the chair of the newly formed Standing Faculty Committee on Premedical Education.

"A large class is not necessarily bad, some large classes clearly do work effectively. But a large class can be a challenge," he said. "I have taught classes with over 200 students on several occasions in the past, and I do know it is challenging to maintain a high degree of interest but it is possible."

The Committee on Premedical Education are considering whether the chemistry and biochemistry classes can and should be re-organized or modified so that there might be more classes and therefore smaller classes. This Committee has not yet considered the issue of course evaluation but would certainly discuss it, according to Ball.

Kreston believes "large classes are a necessary evil. The mid-term evaluations are one mechanism for addressing the problems within large classes," he said.

Bringing problems to the attention of professors is only one goal of this new system. Additionally, the Committee hopes that, by being able to see the immediate effects of their comments, more students will be encouraged to evaluate their courses. Currently, only 60 percent of students participate in the end-of-semester ACE surveys.

"Students will see the effects of their feedback in their classes rather than provide feedback to benefit future students," Kruse said. "We are all guided by self-interest. When students see changes that come from the feedback, they will provide stronger feedback."

Burger admitted that the University has had trouble in recent years getting students to participate in the course evaluations. Although Hopkins has tried to improve the evaluation process in the past, student involvement has remained lower than the University would like to see.

"We have the course evaluation process precisely so that we can consider student input. Obviously, a better response rate gives greater validity to the responses," she said.

Student Council President Scott Bierbryer, thinks having more students complete the survey will not solve the problems within large classes.

"I think the survey needs to be reassessed entirely," he said. "Students will be more likely to fill out a survey that they would also read results from. I think a more efficient and effective survey would also encourage more responses and thus greater impact."

He added that he believes the

Student Council would be willing to help the Committee design the new mid-semester survey.

Although the new evaluation system would bring to light the shortcomings of large courses, there are limitations to the sort of changes a professor may make to his or her class mid-semester.

"What's difficult to correct is an issue like a textbook," David Bell said. "It would be generally very confusing to restructure a course in that way."

"In general I would tend to think radical changes would be hard to do," said Richard Bett, a professor of philosophy and a faculty member on the Curriculum Committee. "If it was a matter of 'let's have more class discussion,' that would be easy to arrange."

Bett said the course evaluations may also be very useful for TAs.

"It may be easy to tweak the TAs' approach. I can see some tweaking, but I can't see fundamental switching of how a course is run," he said.

Another concern with this suggested evaluation system is the setting aside of class time for unrelated matters.

Speaking as a professor, David Bell said, "Do you do something like this in class? I get a little resentful when I have to cut out half my lecture to get students to evaluate. I wouldn't want to cut further into class time. Students would have to care enough to do it on their own time."

Kreston disagreed, saying the evaluation is a compromise.

"It's five minutes out of one class," he said. "Or would you rather lecture for five minutes and have students lose interest in your class?"

The Curriculum Committee is made up of four students, four faculty and an administrative chair from each of the two undergraduate schools. The Committee makes recommendations to the Academic Council for changes in policies affecting the curriculum, such as approving the creation of new majors.

According to Assistant Provost Cathy Lebo, Hopkins class sizes are comparable with its peer institutions. Two-thirds of undergraduate classes have fewer than 20 students, 25 percent have fewer than 10 and only 11 percent have 50 or more.

If there are large classes, Burger said it is because of the academic interests of Hopkins students.

"With a third of our students being engineers, and those students taking many of the same courses as the pre-meds, it creates great pressure on the gateway courses," she said. "This is one of the reasons that the Krieger School has been so eager to attract more humanities majors, so that we can better map the student body onto our faculty resources."

— Additional reporting by Phyllis Zhu

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Development plans to expand Montgomery campus

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Amir, executive director of the Montgomery County Campus.

The campus is located in the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center in the city of Rockville. This area also hosts satellite campuses from other universities, including Towson and University of Maryland.

"We're going to work as closely as we can — which we've already been doing — to fit this in with the whole county's vision of the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center," said Kristina Ellis, spokesperson for the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development.

While her department will play an advisory role in the planning process, Ellis said that final plans will be approved by the county council and planning board.

McDonough expected these plans would be approved by 2009, allowing for construction to begin the following year.

"I'm disappointed it hasn't happened faster," said Gary Brooker, a chemistry and engineering research professor at the Montgomery campus. "The concept of an expansion of Hopkins researchers from five or six years ago hasn't materialized. I think now maybe it will begin to be possible."

"We purchased 108 acres right near the current campus 17 years ago, but were only allowed planning since the death of the prior owner, who had an agreement allowing her to live on land as long as she wished to," Amir said.

Elizabeth Banks, the owner who developed a relationship with Hopkins after receiving medical care, died in January 2005.

"At that point we started looking at planning for the campus, which is now fully underway," Amir said.

Currently the campus shares space with several corporate and governmental research institutes, working together on projects ranging from clinical schizophrenia trials to advising companies how to get FDA approval for the drugs they create.

"Where Hopkins focuses on basic research, all we want to do here is applied research," Amir

said.

Out of 450 faculty members at the campus, Brooker is the only research professor. All 4,000 of the students enrolled at the Montgomery campus study there part-time.

"We teach students who are in the industry. Most of our students are working full time," Amir said.

"Right now we only have master's programs. We'd love to have doctors out here, which would take a critical mass of faculty which we don't have," said Brooker, who also serves as director of the University's microcopy center.

"Would I love to have more faculty? Absolutely. More research? Absolutely. But we're just starting the very beginning process, so we're going ahead first with the real estate side," Amir said.

Brooker said that he would like to be involved in the planning process, but has not been asked to be involved.

"In development of research we will certainly be talking to the academic side. There's nobody that we're hiding from ... [but] at the moment, we're dealing in real estate," Amir said.

When it was announced that the expansion would include housing and commercial developments, residents were concerned that coordinators were not honoring the wishes of the land donor.

The deed granting use of the acreage states known as the Belward Farm says that the area can be used for "agricultural, academic, research and development ... or related purposes only."

Coordinators argued that the "related purposes" clause justifies construction of housing and commercial areas, which they feel are essential to creating an enticing, productive research area.

If housing and commercial developments were "kept in the correct proportion, we believe that this is consistent with the intent of the deed," McDonough said.

However, there are currently



Expansion plans for the Montgomery Campus will more than quadruple its size.

no plans for developing housing on the Belward property, according to Amir.

"Belward is only part of the big sector. Most of the housing will go in the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center and not on Belward," Amir said.

"Hopefully we will get folks that can live and work and play in the same area," Ellis said.

Expansion planners have held forums with the community, which will resume once the issue of transit funding is resolved.

Building depends upon approval for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT), an extension of the Metrorail System that would connect Shady Grove and Clarksburg, according to Amir.

If the CCT is approved, Amir said she hoped the transit system would be completed by 2012.

"It's a long-term project. It's not going to happen tomorrow. It's a transformational project," Amir said.

Funding for the expansion will come from a combination of the public and private sectors, including the local, state and federal governments.

While recent downturns in the economic and housing markets are troubling, Amir said they will not strongly affect expansion plans.

"We're really planning for the

future. As optimists we have to believe the economy is going to turn around. If we stop now ... we won't be ready for the upswing," she said.

Coordinators are wary of the expansion's success without help from the federal government.

"If our nation's leaders agree to advance our country's position as a competitive global leader in science and technology, then I would be optimistic about this expansion," McDonough said.

Amir fears America will continue to lag behind other countries in translational research. "We're not advancing in the rate we need to keep up," she said.

"We need the federal government to refocus its priorities so money will flow again into the Federal labs," Amir said, adding that money which used to go towards this funding "has been diverted to the Middle East."

Brooker was unsure if the Montgomery campus could reach the same level as the Homewood or East Baltimore developments. "They've got quite a head start. It would take long time," he said.

"It's not Baltimore versus Montgomery. For us, it's the growth of Hopkins," Amir said. "Everybody's studying, everybody's working in a lab. Let's actually do something."

Office of Disability Services created to improve facilities

By PHYLLIS ZHU
News-Letter Staff Writer

Last semester, Hopkins sociology graduate student Christian Villenas proposed a project to his Sociology and Disabilities class: Assess how difficult it would be for a physically disabled person to simply enter a building on campus.

Six groups of students found that some of the most frequented buildings on campus, including the MSE Library, Levering Hall and Hodson Hall, were almost inaccessible to those who use wheelchairs or crutches.

"The purpose of the project was to put the issue of disability in a sociological context," Villenas said. "I wanted the students to see that societal institutions have an immense impact on disability."

Oftentimes disability is not the cause of physical ailment but it is society that is disabling, Villenas explained.

Villenas's project has helped bring to light just some of the problems associated with a lack of accommodations for the physically disabled. He presented his findings to a disability advisory committee last month and is currently awaiting a response.

The Office of Student Disability Services is a relatively new department at Hopkins. Located in Garland Hall, the office was created to improve accommodations for the disabled and to ensure that the University is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Under this law, the University has an obligation to ensure disabled people have an opportunity to learn.

"There should more classes like this. Students need to be more aware of these issues," said Richard Sanders, director of the Office of Student Disability Services.

The University currently has 165 students registered as having a physical ailment or psy-

chological disorder. Over the last six to seven years, the number of students with disabilities has increased eight-fold. Physical disabilities are not the only types of disabilities that the office manages; learning disabilities make up a majority of the disabled students. Approximately 60 percent of these students have learning disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

"We expect that [the number of disabled students] will continue to grow because people with disabilities are getting accommodations and are successful in school, much more so than when they were in high school," Sanders said.

Examples of such accommodations include assisting technology which reads text aloud for those with sight problems. As for the issue with mobility to and through buildings, "We are definitely looking at facilities accommodations. We are gathering information about the buildings and prioritizing. Levering Hall in particular needs a lot of help," Sanders said.

Before the findings of the sociology class were presented, there had already been plans to upgrade the facilities. Those plans included improving entrances to buildings and passages within. Top priority, however, was given to the implementation of accessible elevators and bathrooms.

"Our main problem is that funding needs to be taken into consideration. The plans have been wrapped in budget proposals, but insufficient funding is preventing us from carrying them out," said Peggy Hayeslip, director of ADA Compliance and Disability Services at Hopkins.

The Disabilities Services Office plans on establishing an advisory board composed of faculty and students, both with and without disabilities, to generate suggestions and give feedback concerning the improvements of the office.

— Additional reporting by Payal Patnaik

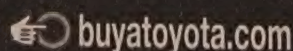
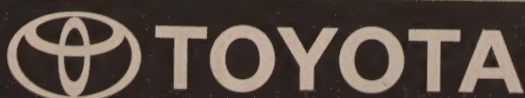
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NEWS & FEATURES

Threat of nuclear weapons in Iran discussed at FAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

ports on Iran's alleged nuclear program are so misleading that "an IAEA official publicly announced on a CNN interview that all U.S. intelligence reports submitted to the IAEA have been proven to be inaccurate and baseless."

Afrasiabi strongly urged people and governments around the world to act with restraint and a spirit of dialogue and to conduct direct talks with the Iranian government.

The three scholars of the panel also held the consensus that there should be immediate negotiations with the Iranian government.

All three also agreed that there needs to be reconsideration of America's current foreign policy.

Panelist Meir Javedanfa said that while the nuclear program in Iran was "originally started with American help," he firmly believes that Iran has always been intending to establish a nuclear weapons program.

The Middle East analyst started his speech by emphasizing that Iran's "nuclear program was not Ahmadinejad's, since he does not have the veto power to approve or stop the program."

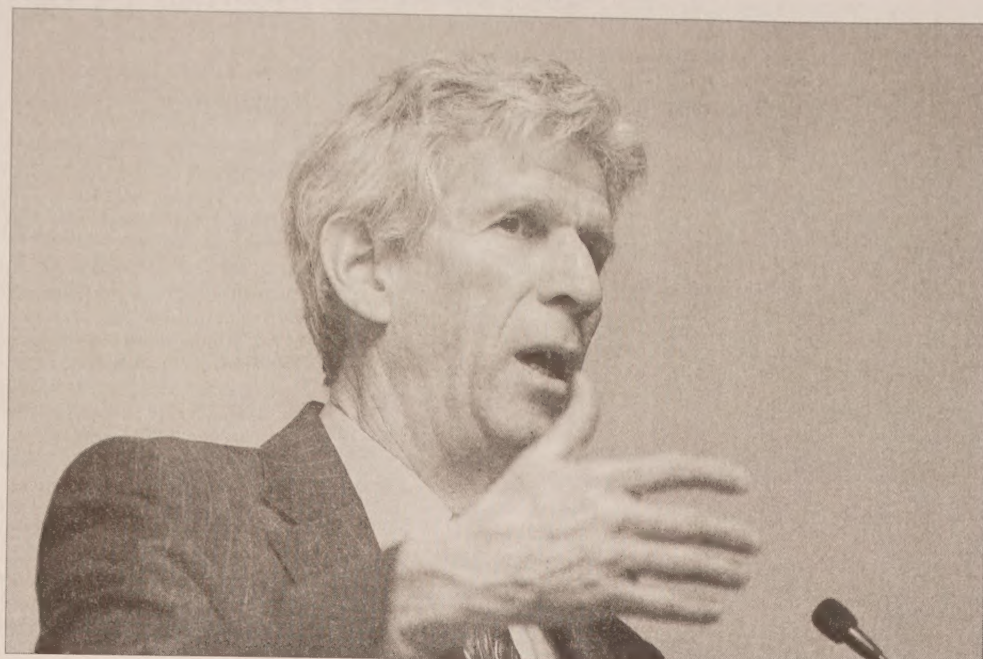
Javedanfar then shed light on the internal structure of the Iranian government.

"Iranian government, at the top leadership level, is the most calculating, pragmatic leadership in the world when it comes to a matter of their survival," he said.

In order to resolve Iran's current insistence on nuclear weapons, Javedanfar suggested world governments should find a solution that is also equally beneficial to the Iranian regime.

"Ahmadinejad wants to make sure that what happens to Saddam Hussein does not happen to Iran, since the nuclear program is one of Iran's pillars of stability, the tool to spread its influence among its neighbors," he said.

Javedanfar, who works as



Panelists spoke about the threat of Iran developing nuclear weapons during a FAS event last Tuesday in the Glass Pavilion.

director for the Middle East Economic and Political Analysis Company, also reiterated his opinion concerning the recent United Nations sanctions on Iran, which were led by the United States.

"I don't think sanctions are going to work. Sanctions are a failure, because sanctions do not buy hearts and minds, and they are certainly not going to bring the government to its knees," he said.

Nearing the end of his designated speech, Javedanfar voiced strong opposition to "certain Western governments who are actively and secretly encouraging separatist movements in Iran

[since] that will be the biggest gift that the West will ever give to Iranian extremists and terrorists."

Rounding out the panelists was Gareth Porter, a journalist for the Inter Press Service who had spent a number of years reporting on events in Iran.

Porter focused his speech on the complex internal structures of the American government and how foreign policies have been coordinated in a spirit of "rivalry" among the various American government institutions.

"All of these government institutions have desires to attain more budget [and] prestige, and

show off their competence. They are not for the interest of the American people. This is a way that we need to understand U.S. foreign policies," Porter said.

From the Iranian point of view, Porter claims that the "Iranian nuclear program is a very pragmatic approach" since it is in the interest of the Iranian government to establish a program in order to ensure the survival of the regime.

"It's a very rational move for them," he said.

Porter also warned of the "danger of politicization of the intelligence community."

This politicization occurs when there is a strong political pressure on the intelligence community to work towards legitimizing a particular foreign policy that the current administration may intend to pursue.

According to Porter, there are two competing political factions within the leadership of Tehran.

He explained that the hard line conservatives of Iran wanted to pursue the nuclear weapons alternative.

The other side wants to integrate Iran politically and economically into the local and international community, which could one day open up a dialogue with America.

"If we understand the internal politics of Iran, what we have here a political leadership deeply divided inside Iran, and the United States should seize this opportunity to bring Iran out into the international community and avoid direct military confrontation with Iran," Porter said.

With low voter turnout, new Council constitution passes

Judiciary will be added after new members are elected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

"I would be surprised if most people on Student Council were fully versed in the current constitution just because it is so confusing, the wording is so poor and parts of it actually conflict with each other," he said.

He thinks the new constitution has made the necessary changes for SGA to run more smoothly than the current Council does.

Having the student body vote on the referendum required that those trying to pass the constitution needed to receive hundreds of signatures, but only 187 students participated in the actual vote.

Only 39 votes were cast in opposition.

The six authors of the new constitution brought it before the Council in February in an attempt to receive their support.

In an effort to create a more unified governing body, the new constitution eliminates the class offices of secretary and treasurer.

Instead, all students will either run for either the position of class president or for one of six class senator positions.

Their individual roles in the SGA will be determined once they are in office.

The executive branch will undergo fewer changes — the new constitution just eliminates one of the two vice president positions.

The vote was conducted online over the weekend.

"We typically see a low turnout on these kinds of issues because it is not something where people can go out and vote for their friends," said Tyler Krus, chair of the committee on student elections (CSE).

Bierbryer expressed dissatisfaction with the low turnout but

said that he was not surprised by it.

"It's obviously a disappointing turnout. But it's also expected. I can only expect students to get so excited about a new constitution for Student Council... I'm just not sure that there's really a concern for Student Council legislation and technicalities," Bierbryer said.

He also attributed the low turnout to the fact that the constitution was written by Council members.

"It was internal. That's why there wasn't a big commotion about it," he said.

The authors of the new constitution expressed a number of reasons for creating it.

Evan Lazerowitz, Sophomore senator for legislation, thinks that it will make it easier for students to run for the class councils.

He said that the named positions — such as senator for Legislation or COLA — were often unclear to students who wanted to be potential candidates.

"People didn't really know what they were running for," he said. Since the new council eliminates these named positions, he thinks students will find it simpler and more appealing to run for a position.

Bierbryer agreed, saying that the current set-up for committees and councilmembers made it "confusing for students, administrators, and the Student Council."

"Starting with a new constitution that has the approval of Student Council allows us to do everything that we are mandated to do," he said.

"It means we're operating with a sense of internal governance. And that's actually proper — so we can address administration and say this is how we operate."



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Executive Council members prepare for implementation of the new constitution.

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March 27 between 1:00 a.m. and 12:55 p.m. — Nine microscope lenses were stolen from two labs inside Mudd Hall, both of which have multiple keys in circulation. Investigations are ongoing.

March 28 at 1:48 a.m. — A junior undergraduate was observed by a Baltimore Police officer assaulting a senior undergraduate. The officer immediately placed the junior under arrest.

Between March 28 at 2:30 p.m. and March 30 at 3:00 p.m. — A Villa Julie College student's car was stolen from where it was parked on E. 33rd St. and later discovered on the same street. Its ignition had been forced and its doors forcibly opened. Also recovered was the student's wallet, which had been removed from the car and discarded. Police are still investigating the incident.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Station North: home to theaters, bars and bikes

By LIZ SCHWARTZBERG
Copy Editor

The neighborhood just north of Penn Station, now being called Station North, is a neighborhood in flux.

The neighborhood, pegged as the city's "arts and entertainment district," is home to a movie theater, a playhouse, a gallery, two restaurants and a few bars and clubs — and also houses several empty, boarded-up storefronts. There are always unusual things going on in Station North, so it can be hard to tell how successful the neighborhood is. It also seems that Station North is a different neighborhood entirely on the weekends than during the week.

The neighborhood's proximity to Penn Station allows for easy access to the area. Students can ride the Colletgetown bus or the JHMI shuttle to Penn Station and easily walk a block to Station North. The area around the station, which has been spruced up recently with flowers, is a welcoming gateway to the neighborhood but contrasts with the building itself, which has begun to show its age. The visual contradictions between the Station and its environment are indicative of the rest of Station North.

One interesting discovery in Station North was Velocipede, a community bike project around the corner from the Metro Gallery. The non-profit collects donated, second-hand and trashed bikes and teaches people in the neighborhood how to repair bicycles. They also sell refurbished bikes. The group therefore encourages a healthy lifestyle, decreases our impact on the environment and fosters a stronger community. While Velocipede is open at unusual hours (Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m.) it appears to have set the tone for a stronger sense of belonging in the neighborhood.

The Charles Theatre has a plethora of loyal fans who flock



The Charles Theatre is a centerpiece of Station North, a neighborhood with several artistic venues crammed into a few short blocks.

to it for its classic art-house feel, reasonable ticket and snack bar prices, strong movie selection and special events. This week the Charles was host to a "fan appreciation party" for a show on TBS called *Tyler Perry's House of Payne*. "The purpose here is to gather all of the 'superfans,'" said Shelvee Casey, one of the coordinators of the event. Some stars of the show were present, and fans got to enjoy music and food, watch an as-of-yet unaired episode and meet in focus groups to discuss the direction they would like the show to take. The Charles also hosted a premiere of *Hairspray* over the summer that several of the movie's stars attended.

The Everyman Theatre, up the block a bit from the Charles, draws theater lovers to the neighborhood. Laura Weiss, the au-

dience services manager, said, "we've outgrown our space." The Everyman is planning to leave its location on Charles Street next year. "We're moving in the next few years ... to the Town Theatre, near the Hippodrome." While the move downtown may be a boon for the theater, which came to Station North in 1994, it could have negative ramifications for the neighborhood, depending on what takes the Everyman's place. It seems that the other businesses on the block — save for a dry cleaner that has been around for a decade — survive due to the success of the theaters.

The bar and clubbing scene in Station North, which is a bit under the radar for the average Hopkins student, has impressive variety: Club Charles, a hipster outpost frequented by none other

than John Waters; The Depot, a bar and dance club that plays mostly '80s and '90s music; Club Choices, a hip-hop club a block up from the main drag; the Lo-Fi Social Club, which hosts punk and indie rock shows; and a mysterious private club called 1722, which has a laundry list of rules posted by its door. The Metro Gallery sometimes hosts upcoming musicians from the area, and their tickets are usually under \$10. Also, the Zodiac Restaurant (which was closed on Tuesday afternoon) has a full bar and occasional dance parties.

The restaurants on the main drag of Station North include the Zodiac, which caters to vegetarians and meat-eaters alike; Tapas Teatro, a popular restaurant adjacent to the Charles Theatre, and Sofi's Crepes, which is only open Thursday through Sunday. Brian, a waiter at Tapas Teatro and MICA graduate, said of the neighborhood, "For the most part, on this block, there are always things going on." But the relative emptiness of the block on a Tuesday afternoon, combined with the fact that Tapas Teatro does not open until 5 during the week, seem to tell a different story. "Our business is usually affected by those two theaters more than anything else," he said.

There are several unrealized opportunities in the neighborhood — most notably the shuttered Chesapeake Restaurant, which has been closed for almost 20 years. The *City Paper* reported in March that the prime piece of real estate will be put to use once again. The Baltimore Development Corp., which recently acquired the building, is involved with several ongoing projects throughout the city. While it is unclear what the company has in mind, the project will surely have a major effect on the neighborhood. Additionally, a former diner with newspaper-covered windows sits just across from the Everyman Theatre. It is hard to see why a classic American diner would be unable to survive with so many nightclubs and theaters in its midst.

While it is unclear what lies in Station North's future, one encouraging aspect of the neighborhood is how many different people spend time there. In Station North, working-class Baltimoreans, old ladies, MICA students, professionals who work downtown and skateboarding high school students share the street. The neighborhood appeals to a broad audience, and in that sense, it sets a high standard for the rest of Baltimore to follow.

Things I've Learned, with Prof. Walkowitz

By HEATHER BARBAKOFF
News & Features Editor

Like a majority of people at Hopkins, Judith Walkowitz originally wished to study biology; luckily she instead pursued history. She was able to set aside time from her latest project researching London's Soho neighborhood in the interwar period to talk with the *News-Letter*.

The Johns Hopkins *News-Letter* (N-L): How did your interest in history begin?

Judith Walkowitz (JW): I think I became interested in history because it was the 1960s. The kind of history, the kind of social and culture history that I practice actually emerges out of the left-wing intellectual developments; the notion that history actually can be made by ordinary people, and through their small efforts they can change the world. That kind of commitment to cultural and political populism, I think generated my interest in history. I'm kind of a textbook version of the 1960s. I was involved in the student movement, the civil rights movement, the anti-war movement, the women's liberation movement. And I think that kind of support for me, an interest in history that would in some sense enlarge and support my contemporary political interests led me to become a historian.

N-L: When you say that you became interested in the idea that ordinary people could help propagate history, was there in the back of your mind a little thought that you were a part of the history you would study one day?

JW: I have to go back to Rutgers, where first I taught many years ago, and talk about the founding of the Institute for Research on Women 30 years ago. Now it's history and I can't remember anything!

N-L: Were you part of the founding of that department there?

JW: Yes I was. I got interested in my first book, which was my dissertation, in the historical question of what were the circumstances that led to feminist alliances, cross class alliances ... what were the issues of the 19th century that could bring women of different classes together. It turned out to my great surprise that it wasn't domestic service, it wasn't factory workers. It was prostitution. I undertook a research dissertation project that looked at feminist campaigns against state regulated prostitution and alliances with working class people over issues of policing of prostitutes ... I looked at the feminists, the doctors, the political mobilizations, but I also looked at the world of prostitutes and their families and their neighborhoods ... The question I was asking about cross-class alliances comes out of 1960s politics, but the answer was the historical.

N-L: Did you expect to go so far back in time to find your answer? Or did you think it would be something closer to the 1960s?

JW: I was interested in the first wave of feminism; I was part of the second wave of feminism. I wanted to know, what was the first wave? I think I was quite prepared to go back as far as I could. If you think about this project: I asked a general question. It turns out what the concerned feminist in the 19th century was prostitution ... The system with state regulated prostitution was in-

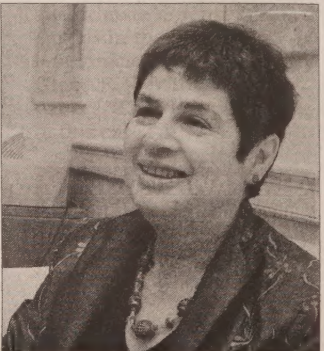
roduced to control the spread of venereal disease among military men.

N-L: You began teaching here in 1989. How do you think that Hopkins as both a student body and an institution has changed over that time period?

JW: I think that the undergraduates I deal with are a much more engaged and a livelier bunch than when I first started, especially in the humanities. They have a better *esprit d'écouter* and they are more intellectually engaged. I think the best thing that the institution has done ... is the policy of really trying to encourage students from Baltimore, African-American students from Baltimore, to apply to the University by accepting students, of providing the full four-year scholarship to students who have been accepted from Baltimore City schools. That evidently has improved town-gown relations and it's been a long time coming. I think it's great. I don't have a great sense of the transformation of the University in the time I've been here.

N-L: Were you part of the founding of the Women and Gender Studies program here? Did you form it? Did you meet a lot of criticism or skepticism?

JW: I used to run it; I ran it for about six or seven years. I was very well received ... but sustain-



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Judith Walkowitz specializes in modern European history and women's studies.

ing a program like the women's studies program involves an investment on the part of the University for recruiting faculty to run it and I don't think they've committed to doing that ... Why isn't there a senior faculty person running the program? Several years ago, we tried to get the University to recruit another senior faculty member, to do a competitive hire — another senior scholar who would also direct the program. But the University wouldn't commit to it.

N-L: What sort of advice would you give to an undergraduate who wanted to do research in the humanities?

JW: I believe in subcultures. I believe in building your own group, being ambitious about it, self-organization. And I think that sub-cultural approaches work at Johns Hopkins. I think that they [students] should decide what they think about what kind of programs and courses they would like to see and make some demands on the faculty and the University — I think they can do that. But you have to get organized to do that ... Sometimes I get the sense that students feel they that they are in a science school. But the humanities programs are really the top-rated ones, so they really have an opportunity here and they should pursue them. They should have a higher morale than they do ... Try to think about how their interests combine with a certain kind of politics.

Say Goodbye to Senior Year and Hello to Alumni Life

The Johns Hopkins Alumni Association
invites the Class of 2008 to the

Senior Class Dinner

Sunday, April 13, 2008
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Ralph S. O'Connor Recreation Center

A Hopkins Tradition
The Alumni Association
hosts the Class of 2008's
last official gathering before graduation.

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CORRECTIONS

In the March 27 edition of the *News-Letter*, the brief on page A8 was incorrectly headlined "Anatomy professor helps in discovery of oldest known." It should read "Anatomy professor helps in discovery of oldest known rabbit bones."

In the March 13 edition, the article "Despite improvements, residents in East Baltimore remain disgruntled" on A1 reported that the project in East Baltimore is an 80-acre, \$800 million development. While this was the information provided on the Baltimore housing Web site, the project is actually an 88-acre, \$1.8 billion development.

In the same article, the names of workforce and senior housing were incorrect. Ashland Common is the workforce housing, while the senior housing is called Park View at Ashland Terrace.

The *News-Letter* regrets these errors.

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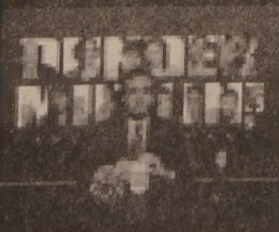


Thursday 4/3

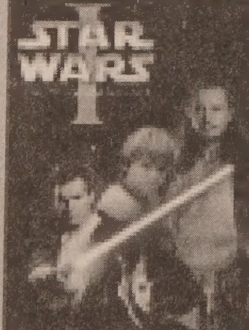


8:00pm
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9:00PM
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Friday 4/4



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10pm
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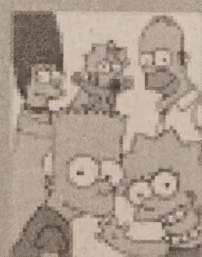
Saturday 4/5



Rahim
AlHaj
Live!
8pm
on Nolan's
Stage



Sunday 4/6



8pm
The
Simpsons

9pm
Law & Order



Monday 4/7



8pm
Gossip Girl



8pm
New
Amsterdam

Tuesday 4/8



8pm

AMERICAN
IDOL

9pm

Hell's Kitchen



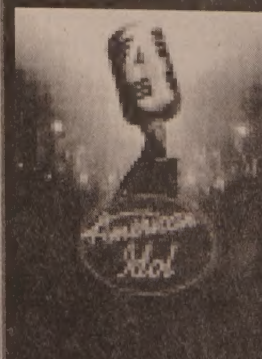
Wednesday 4/9

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NEWS & FEATURES

News in Brief

U. Md. fraternity loses charter after hazing investigation

Following an investigation into hazing practices, officials at the University of Maryland, College Park made the decision to disband the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

An anonymous tip-off alerted the University to acts of physical, mental and emotional abuse of fraternity pledges that took place over the last three years.

Delta Tau Delta has held a chapter at College Park since 1948, but now its charter has been revoked and its members will be forced to move out of the chapter house on Fraternity Row.

The University's officials did not go into detail about the practices that took place, but they noted alcohol abuse as a major factor. The international headquarters of the fraternity did not contest the hazing charges.

The Delta Tau Delta incident is not the first time this year the school has encountered the issue of hazing. Last month the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity received ten months' probation when officials determined it had injured a pledge.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.STUDENTORG.UMDE.EDU](http://www.studentorg.umde.edu)
Delta Tau Delta has been evicted from the University of Maryland's Fraternity Row.

JHU aids in development of Baltimore charter school

Hopkins institutions are heavily involved in the development of two new Baltimore City charter schools, the Baltimore Civitas School and the Reach! School.

The Baltimore Civitas School will be run by the University's Center for Social Organization of Schools and will focus on public-service education.

Set to be located in Northwest Baltimore, the Civitas School will open to grades 6-9 and eventually serve students up to grade 12. Students there will learn the traditional subjects as well as work on independent projects designed to serve the community.

The Reach! School will also be a middle and high school but will focus on preparing students for careers in health and construction. Reach! (which stands for Research Educational Achievement: Construction and Health Partnership) will be operated by the nonprofit program Service Works in conjunction with Hopkins Hospital and Associate Builders and Contractors of Maryland.

Hospital personnel will create the health part of the school's curriculum and offer students such opportunities as job shadowing and field trips.

The Civitas and Reach! schools are part of Baltimore City Public Schools' CEO Andrea Alonso's "transformation schools" initiative, which aims to build two dozen innovative schools within the next four years.

Two men indicted in death of UNC student

Two men have been indicted for last month's murder of a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill student.

Demario Atwater and Laurence Lovette face charges of first-degree murder in the case of Eve Carson, a 22-year-old senior at Chapel Hill and student body president.

Eve Carson was the victim of a shooting on March 5. Police have called the incident a random act of violence.

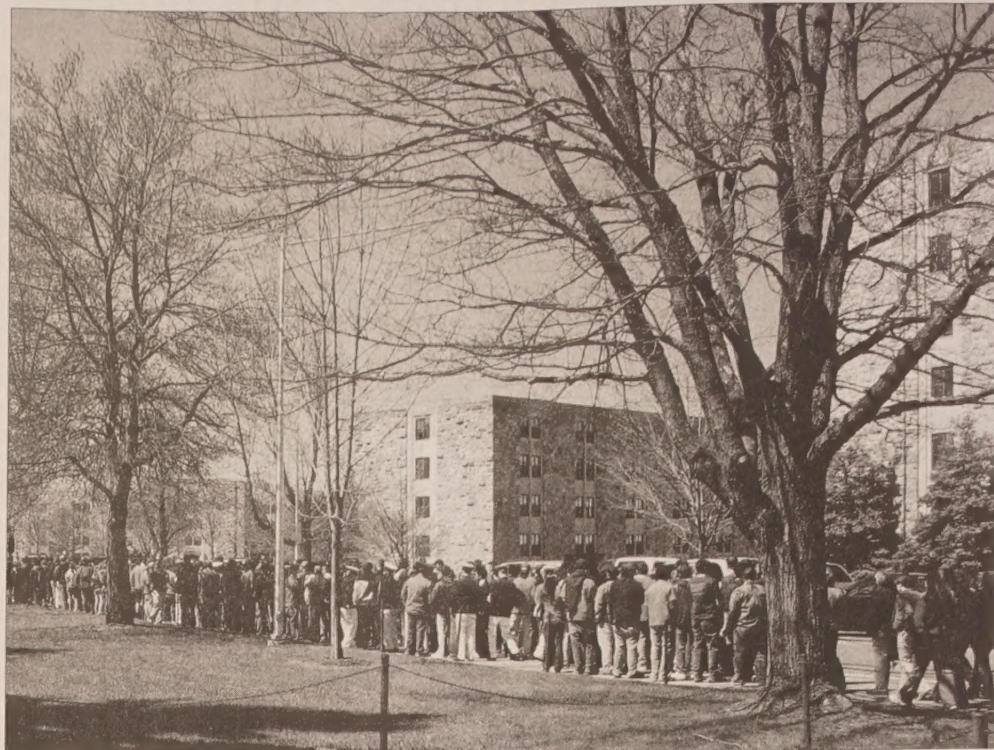
Atwater is set to return to court May 1 for further discussion of his violations. The May hearing will establish whether he will face the death penalty. However, 17-year-old Lovette is too young for the court to pursue the death penalty.

Atwater also attended a hearing regarding his probation violation. He received probation for breaking and entering in January.

Two days later, Duke graduate student Abhijit Mahato was murdered, a crime for which Atwater has also been indicted.

Delaware CFO named Hopkins financial director

This month the University will welcome Michael Strine as the new executive director of



COURTESY OF [HTTP://COMMONSWIKIMEDIA.ORG](http://commons.wikimedia.org)
A student gunman killed 32 people at Virginia Tech last April. Now the families of the victims are being offered a settlement.

financial planning and analysis.

In this appointment Strine will be responsible for planning the University's \$3.5 billion budget and preparing the annual five-year financial plan. He will also be in charge of the University's capital plan and conducting studies on financial issues. He will also be the chief staff liaison to the Finance Committee of the board of trustees.

Currently Strine serves as the chief financial officer of New Castle County, Del. Prior to that, he worked with two governors in Delaware's Departments of Finance, eventually becoming chief of policy and operations.

Strine held positions in academia early in his career, working as an assistant professor at the University of Denver and at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He received his bachelor's degree in 1986 from the

University of Delaware and his political science doctorate in 1992 from Hopkins.

Virginia offers settlement to families of VA Tech victims

Families of victims of the Virginia Tech shootings have been offered a settlement that the commonwealth of Virginia hopes will prevent lawsuits.

Each family can choose to accept a settlement of up to \$100,000 as well as medical and counseling expenses. If they accept the settlement, these families must agree to forfeit their right to sue the commonwealth government or Virginia Tech.

The terms of the settlement

would also allow the families to meet with Gov. Tim Kaine, D-Va., and Virginia Tech officials to discuss campus and state policy matters related to the 2007 shootings. In addition they would receive updates on the campus's and state police's investigations.

The proposal also includes a total of \$800,000 for the injured victims and plans for creating a special damages fund to provide free mental and physical health care to victims and members of their immediate families.

More than 20 lawsuits related to the Virginia Tech shootings have already been filed with the commonwealth governments. Families and victims who decide not to accept the settlement have until April 16 (the one-year anniversary of the shootings) to file a lawsuit.

— All briefs by Alex Vockroth



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SAINT PAUL & 32ND

Public display of affection or blatant exhibitionism?

Nolan's recently played a Barry White album as background music. This led to some significant sexual agitation throughout the room, as evidenced by the uncomfortable laughter, awkward conversation about the music itself and, in some cases, physical displays of affection.

This brings up the issue of PDA — public displays of affection.

In high school and middle school, there were rules, mandates, prowling teachers, hall monitors and suspicious classmates.

The college atmosphere is much more free; we're allowed to kiss goodbye as explicitly as we please before heading to lab.

However, social obligation mandates a certain degree of decency. What that standard entails depends on whom you ask.

Some people feel that caressing all over in public is okay as long as both parties are fully clothed. Others feel that anything past a peck on the lips is vulgar.

This means that a quick kiss during dinner is universally alright, whereas blow jobs in movie theaters cross the line.

Personally, I think it depends on context. Do frat party base-

There are some who would rather the outdoors be kid- and lost-Frisbee-safe and would prefer not to have hands involved at all.

Does American society have a specific set of rules about PDA? Generally no, it's a personal issue.

There are certain things that are covered by public indecency, lewdness and misconduct laws, but those things are not typically an issue in places like Remsen or MSE.

Actually, a little indecent exposure might really spice up reading period, now that I think about it.

It's worth pointing out that handholding is completely acceptable in nearly every case, save possibly rectal exams and firing ranges.

However, up-the-skirt-sex is pushing it in just about every case. Sex in public may be exciting to think about, but if you get caught it could be serious

trouble.

PDA is not necessarily an indication of exhibitionist tendencies. That is, if your boyfriend kisses you constantly in public it could mean three things: He could be showing the world that you're his, proving to an ex that "he's the man" or he may really like exhibitionism.

Only the second should be

viewed negatively, though if you're a shy and private person I suppose the third would also pose an issue for you as well. Generally, however, exhibitionism is much more intense than

regular PDA.

An issue often not breached is the scandal of Facebook PDA. Does "kiss" count? Do those elaborate enhanced-poke applications count? Do excessively mushy or dirty wall posts count?

And how about those pictures of people kissing? When is it too much — when tongue is visible? When there's clearly other business occurring below the crop line? Where does it end?

Basically, PDA can easily be gross, and uncalled for. It can easily make your peers disgusted and aggravated.

However, it must be acknowledged that certain forms of PDA are actually cute.

Please send your questions to grace.henry@jhunewsletter.com.



Grace Gwendolyn

Henry
That's What
She Said

Sex in public may be exciting to think about, but if you get caught it could be serious trouble.

You don't know crap: the science of yogurt

When I went home for spring break, I rediscovered yogurt.

My mother usually stocks the stuff when it's on sale and although I sampled it occasionally, I generally avoided the Fruit on the Bottom variety, particularly peach.

I hate peach.

But this break, mommy had two new loves in the fridge: Yoplait Whips! and Activia. Yoplait Whips! are by far my new favorites: light, fluffy and full of flavor.

Activia, on the other hand, I found a bit sweet for my taste buds. But it had the alluring arrow pointing downstairs, and the label "Bifidus Regularis," so I figured it was some weird yogurt mold and I just can't resist eating something gross.

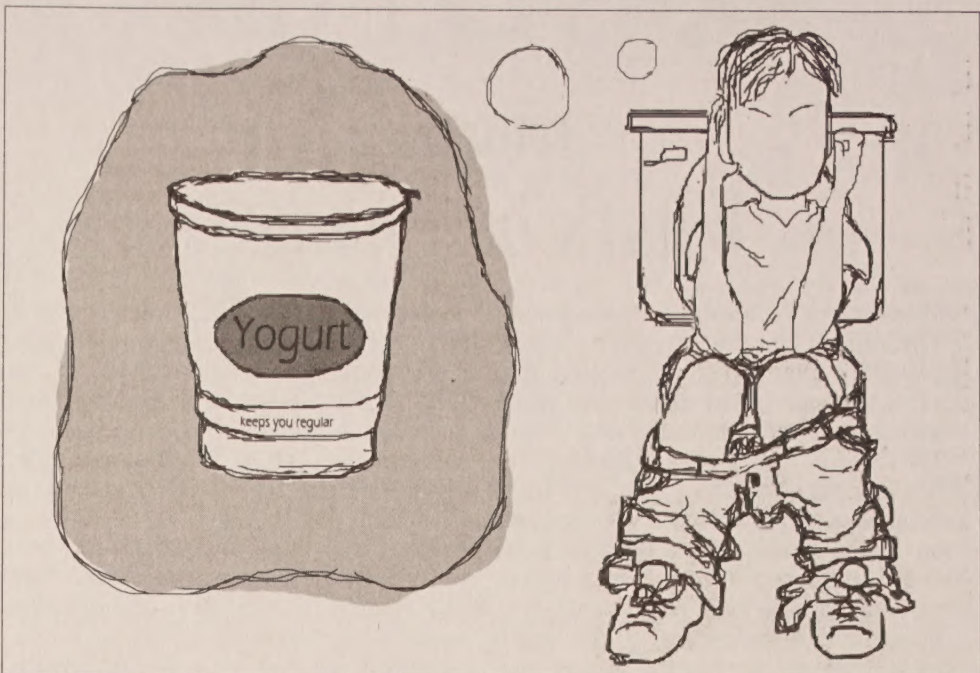
Turns out I was in for another extraordinary experience: perfectly mobilized bowels!

Activia prides itself on being the only yogurt containing a particular culture of bacteria: Bifidus Regularis, which is actually only a trade name created by the Danon specialists (Regularis is not the real species name).

The scientific name is *Bifidobacterium animalis* DN-173 010. It is a subspecies within the genus Bifidobacteria, which is one of the main branches of bacteria that run around in your colon.

Bifidobacteria are Gram-positive, anaerobic rod-shaped bacteria. Along with Lactobacilli — another bacterium found in the gut — Bifidobacteria help break down ingested carbohydrates, and produce organic compounds such as lactic acid, acetic acid and hydrogen peroxide.

In doing so, they decrease the



ANNE FABER/NEWS-LETTER STAFF

pH of the intestines and prevent growth of other harmful bacteria, all the while helping to get more energy from your food and speeding up intestinal transit.

Activia is special because it's not available in jars. Usually you can't just walk into Charles Street Market and ask Miss D for some *Bifidobacterium animalis* DN-173 010 because you're constipated. But Activia makes it available in little cups.

Bacteria don't perform their allotted functions, such as assisting in digestion, unless they're alive.

Many of them have a too-short shelf-life or won't make it through the powerful acidity of your stomach.

Bifidus Regularis survives the trip through your GI tract and arrives in the intestines as a live culture, where it can get to work.

Activia doesn't say all this on the container — it would take up a fair amount of space.

Instead, they emphasize the thing that Activia is known for: regulating your bowel movements.

For a healthy adult, food goes

in your mouth, over the epiglottis, down the esophagus and into the tummy, then gets sloshed around with pepsin and HCl and then keeps moving on through the duodenum.

It then travels through the rest of the small intestine, then the large intestine, the rectum, the anus and then, hello sewage.

This should take under 72 hours, or else you must be constipated.

This intestinal transit is affected by the food you eat, your gut flora, your stress levels and other environmental factors, including your age and gender (transit time increases

with age, and is generally longer in women).

Having bad bowel movements is bad. It could mean you're sick, you're not eating well, or the creepy-crawlies in your GI tract are sick.

If your GI crawlies are feeling a bit under the weather, Activia will help them help you poo.

The scientists at the Activia labs have noted speedier intestinal transit in studies where volunteers ingested fermented milk with or without *B. animalis* in double-blind experiments. Those

that ingested the bacteria were found to have reduced total colonic transit time by 21 percent.

So Activia helps you digest faster, reduces the bad effects of constipation and increases your nutrient uptake.

Ironically, the Activia scientists don't yet know why it does this, they just know that it does it. But they do hypothesize.

Clinical evidence has shown consistent improvements in intestinal transit time with continued ingestion of Activia. *Bifidobacterium animalis* DN-173 010 does something in between the mesenteries to make digestion easier and pooping smoother and more regular.

If you have intestinal problems, try the Activia two-week challenge.

Studies are showing that in less than two weeks your body may have a replenished *Bifidus* population, or at least that you'll be squatting regularly. For the diabetics and dieters, try Activia Light or Plain, with fewer carbs and calories.

And for those of you with satisfactory bowel movements, try Yoplait Whips!

Lisa Ely can be reached at lisa.ely@jhunewsletter.com.

Lisa Ely
To Health With It

Spring into this season's fashion with loose, flowy tops

Now that April's here, the fickle weather of Baltimore has finally stopped fooling around (get it?). It's springtime. Ladies, those stuffy sweaters can finally retire to your bottom drawer, and toss your Uggs into the closet (or, even better, the trash!).

After being cooped up for too long under all that fur and wool, your skin's begging to breathe again.

A great way to embrace the spring breeze is with a light, loose top. When you're shopping, don't be afraid of the stylish cuts of new spring tops. Think flowy, carefree and un-clinging. The look should be somewhere between 1970s hippies and 15th century peasants.

But before making any purchases, definitely think about

Please.

Most girls can find a flowy top whose length is appropriate, but width is a much larger problem.

Not only does the flowy top challenge the side-to-side width of the female figure, but (unlike the tight tanks and form-fitting t-shirts of past spring styles) also the front-to-back dimensions.

When it comes to side-to-side fit, try to look for tops that aren't overly A-shaped. If you have a small torso or hips, you might find yourself lost in the horizontal horror of an ill-fitting flowy top.

The top should be looser but shouldn't camouflage your womanly figure. Like many males, freshman Jack Anderson appreciates the shape of a lady.

"Women should flaunt their curves, not hide them," he said in response to overly flowy shirt.



Mary Doman
Fashion Makes Perfect

If your physique just doesn't form with the flow, but you love the shirt anyway, there are ways to make it work.

Though the shrinking power of the drying machines may be tempting (especially to you first-year launderers), don't do it — shrinking a wide top only shortens the length, making it appear wider.

Gold reveals a trendy secret many use to combat the box effect of a flawed flowy top. "Your best bet is to belt it, just to give the shirt some shape. Most don't think to do this, hence: the pregnant look," she said.

The pregnant look — perhaps the flowy top's number one problem child, distinguished by excess space in the "front-to-back" portion of the shirt. Here's where many flowy tops just don't make the cut.

Since most drop from the neckline in a fashion that can be described as hanging, finding a

shirt that has both a fitting neckline and body may be tricky. Often the fabric billows out, making the woman appear as if she is with child. There are countless tales of a mistaken account of pregnancy due to unruly ruffles of flowy shirt.

For most ladies, this problem starts right there: the ladies. If you're large-chested, aim for longer flowy shirts with more fabric. Hopefully when the flow of your top falls from your chest, it will hang inwards, instead of out, successfully eradicating any doubts of pregnancy.

For the girls rocking A-cups, steer towards flowy tops with higher necklines and less fabric.

The low cuts and loose layouts of many flowy tops don't suit many petite and small-chested women, who just don't have as much to fill the generous spaces of the flowy top.

If you and your chest find yourselves in this situation, avoid tops with low, bowl-cut necklines and search instead for wrap or V-neck styles.

Some flowy tops even have adjustable straps, making it easy for your girls to stay snugly covered while the rest of your body has space to breathe.

Finding a flowy top that meets the many demands of a woman's complex figure isn't as easy and breezy as the style suggests.

For that reason, most stores are also equipped with weapons to domesticate the wild folds of



COURTESY OF WWW.CARTAPACIO.COM

Flowy tops can work if you take the time to find one that fits your body right — a small ribbon around the waist can help.

the flowy shirt.

Belts, of course, control the shirt by harnessing excess fabric in the front or at the sides.

Remember, though, that a flowy shirt should be ... flowy. Choose a belt that fits the easy-going theme of the flowy shirt. This means you shouldn't buy the black suede belt on clearance.

Instead use the small power of a thin, light belt appropriate for both the spring season and the carefree attitude of the flowy shirt. Ribbons are also a creative solution to problematic flowy tops.

Although ending this article with advice to "go with the flow" would be witty, it would also be kind of cheesy and also wrong.

Wise (yet still cheesy) advice: before you "spring" into purchasing the new styles of this season, make sure your flowy top is flattering.

Sports editor Mary Doman can be reached at sports@jhunewsletter.com.

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

What's in a name?

The Student Council's new constitution is a promising. The history of the Council is one of inaction and so it is positive that the Council members are now attempting internal reforms in order to change.

The Council will now be called the Student Government Association, and there a number of other technical changes have been made, which its proponents hope will enable the governing body to more effectively address student concerns.

The referendum highlights the problems of what will soon be the defunct Student Council. Only 187 students actually participated in the referendum that passed the Constitution. While the Constitution is concerned with seemingly technical changes, it is the job of a governing body to inspire voter participation. The vote on this referendum is endemic of recurring dilemmas that have plagued the Council in the past.

The Council should have advertised the referendum more aggressively, going beyond simply sending a bland e-mail. Activity on the breezeway or in the library would have gone a long way; as would have the posting of flyers and advertisements.

The truth is, however, that it's hard for students to get engaged in a referendum for a student government that has done little for them over the years. Many don't even know what the Council does. We can only expect so much participation when the student body doesn't care about the result.

Now that the constitution has been ratified, the new government should seek to actualize the lofty goals that its proponents have proposed.

More work still must be done. In this next month, members will be concerned with drafting the new bylaws for the SGA. However, this school year is not yet over and much can still be achieved.

Members should inform the student body that their student government will now concentrate on getting things done for them. Hopkins students deserve a government of which they can be proud.

Now is the opportunity to build grassroots support among the student body for this new government. Hopefully, students will have representatives who effectively represent student interests and give us all a reason to care.

Make Homewood accessible

Conducting sophisticated, original research that penetrates the transcendent social and political challenges of our time is certainly this University's strength. And, unsurprisingly, our administrators love to talk about it (especially in front of donors). They take the research this University's social and natural scientists conduct seriously, and so they should.

But the University seems decidedly less enthused when students conduct that research, and when their findings are about the University itself.

Such is the case when it comes to making this campus more accessible to people with disabilities. Student researchers concluded in the fall that a number of buildings and other spaces on this campus are inaccessible and, at worst, treacherous for disabled persons. Some of the research teams even alleged that certain University buildings failed to comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Administrators have promised to take these students' findings seriously, and remedy one of this University's most egregious transgressions. They have created an Office of Student Disability Services and appointed a director who is experienced and seems earnest about his task.

But the University's efforts cannot stop there. Working with disabled students on an individual basis is certainly a valuable service, but there are broader and more systemic problems involving disability access on this campus that the University must address. The Office of Student Disability Services has neither the funding nor the mandate to confront these problems and develop long-term strategies to correct them. It should.

This is not merely a lofty prescriptive ideal — it is based on empirical data collected thoughtfully and assiduously by student researchers. The administration has met to discuss the issue with the professor overseeing the project, but it now needs to take the next step toward actualizing vague affirmations of responsibility.

The University must give the Office of Student Disability Services the staff, resources and authority needed to develop a long-term program for identifying and remedying problems with disability access on campus. It is not just a moral imperative, but an opportunity for the University to show that it takes student research (and self-evaluation) seriously.

Take student feedback seriously

Many students at Hopkins have expressed serious problems with the way some of their classes are run. The end-of-semester class evaluations should be a crucial part of examining these issues and working toward potential solutions. While student concerns vary according to professor, department, course material and learning preferences, it is clear that undergraduates often feel that their particular complaints are not adequately addressed by the University.

The University should take such evaluations seriously — 60 percent of students take the time and energy to fill them out and hand them in. That is a respectable portion, especially at Hopkins.

It is wrong for the University to assume that students do not care about end-of-semester evaluations simply because they have completed the coursework. Actually, most students would like classes to improve for those who come after them.

The Curriculum Committee's consideration of mid-semester evaluations as a way to increase student participation is not a bad idea. Such evaluations will let a professor know how students are feeling and address minor concerns before the semester ends. But the changes that come from such evaluations will be more superficial and less sweeping, simply be-

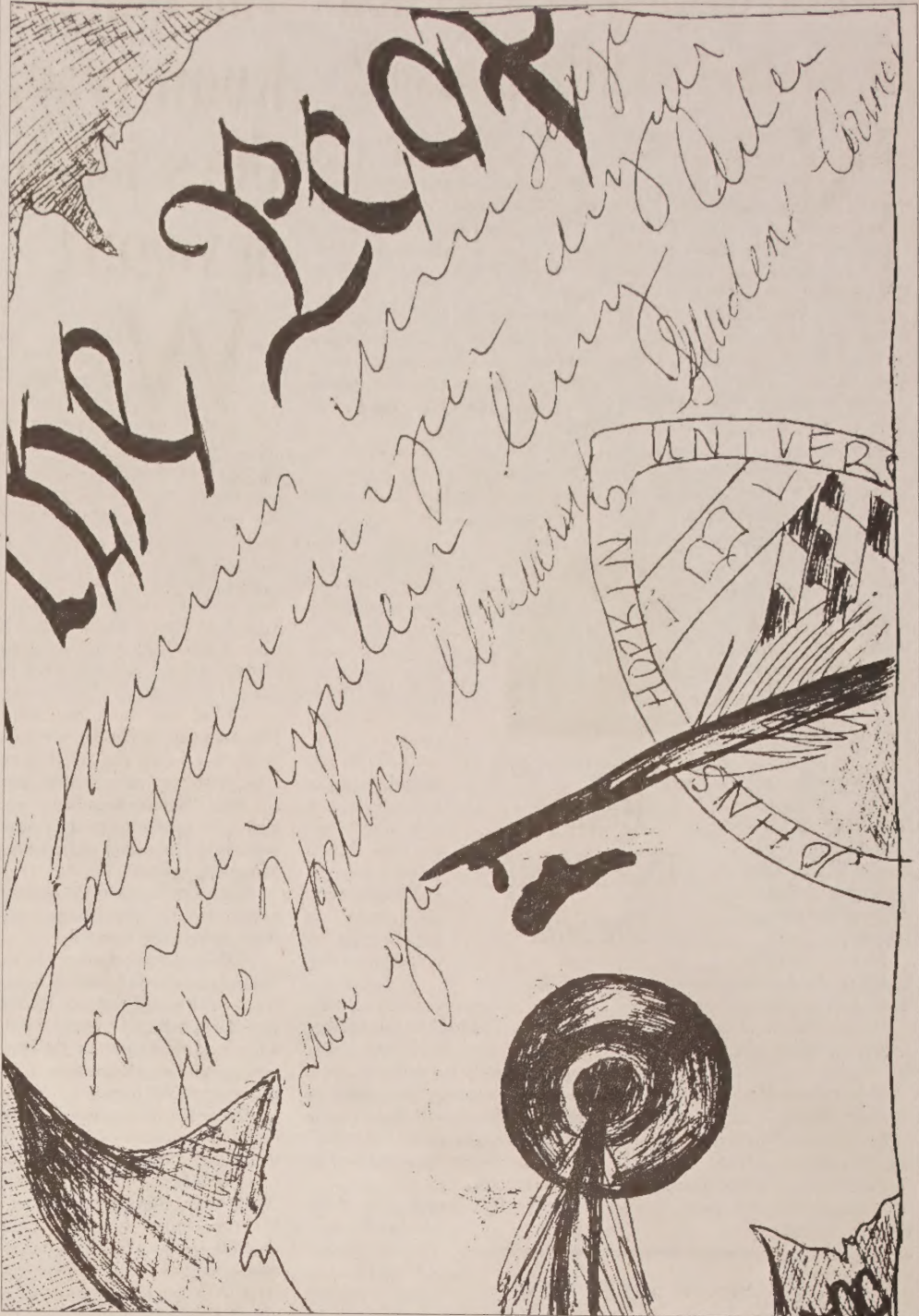
cause the parameters of the course have already been established for the semester. For that reason, end-of-semester evaluations have the potential to allow for much systemic changes.

This potential should be harnessed in part by changing the structure of the questionnaires. More specific questions should be posed in order to elicit more thoughtful responses.

Class size is an important issue many students bring up as a recurring problem with courses. Sometimes large lecture classes work well and students have great experiences. Other times, however, large classes hamper students' learning by inhibiting thoughtful consideration of the material. The University must know which issues are pertinent to which courses before taking action.

The University and students must take end-of-semester evaluations more seriously. Rather than simply outsourcing responsibility to different committees, as the University tends to do, University administrators and department chairs must directly address student concerns. We cannot make specific recommendations to the exact course of action that the University needs to take; they must attend to the challenges of respective departments and courses, and discern what must be done.

Natachi Chukumerije



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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the News-Letter and cannot be returned. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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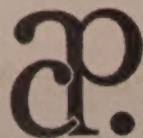
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OPINIONS

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The racial divide

By PHILIP CASTROVINCI

I drove down to South Carolina this weekend to attend a horse race. The South really is another planet to a kid from New Jersey. I have some family in North Carolina and am somewhat familiar with the area, but there are few similarities. Having grown up in the North, I have a somewhat jaded view of the South from studying their history pockmarked and defined by racism. Indeed, whenever I see the Confederate “Stars and Bars” my thoughts immediately jump to plantations and the Civil War. My trip made me question the way I interpret the way others view racism.

It was a stereotypical college road trip, and, stereotypically, I will say it was a blast. We drove from Baltimore to Camden, S.C., which are perhaps polar opposites. What jaded me the most was stopping about 20 miles north of the South/North Carolina border at around midnight before we made the final stretch into Camden. We stopped at a gas station that should, by all accounts, have been condemned. The comments from one of my passengers kind of perturbed me. He was concerned about how “sketchy” the people were who were loitering outside and said that maybe we should go to another station.

With that statement, all I could think about was even though everyone in the car was taught that the Stars and Bars were a symbol of oppression, the North hasn’t necessarily made greater strides toward racial equity than the South has.

This became a topic of discussion during the car ride. I am curious how Americans from all walks are taught race rela-

tions in schools and in homes, both black and white.

America was built on the backs of slaves and from the blood of Native Americans. Thank God now we are equal. But how far have we come? It’s easy to give political rights, those are cheap, but to ensure true equity in a society is expensive. The difference between slaves and the working poor is the working poor are cheaper to provide for as a society. I laugh every time I go to Wisconsin and talk about race issues at the dinner table. The liberal attitude assures me that Wisconsin is a very accepting place, but it’s easy when everyone looks, acts and talks the same.

I felt cheated. The South is seen as a vestigial structure from a racist past. The Confederate flag is still condemned in the North, and we take pride in the idea that we abolished slavery first. This has given people from Boston, New York

and I nearly laughed when I saw all the white deans show up to hear from the Hopkins community about their reactions and ideas.

During the next two hours of driving to S.C. I sat uneasily. I kept thinking about the way I view races and racism. I wondered if I were racist. How would I know? The influences started from day one of birth, from my teachers, parents, TV and friends. I don’t know. No one does. That’s the point I guess. Hopefully we can spur a dialogue across this campus, so that we can all better understand each other and ourselves. Getting it all out in the open might truly help us realize how far we have gone and how far we still need to go.

Philip Castrovinci is a senior public health major from Sarasota, Fla.

I promise to, if you will

By JACKIE HUANG

New haircuts. The freshly-bloomed daffodils around campus. How yellow normal headlights look, compared to the occasional set of bright blue ones. Some things you just never notice until they’re brought to your attention.

For instance, I grew up in San Jose, California, the 10th biggest city in the United States. Of the million people who live there, Hispanics, whites and Asians make up about 30 percent of the population each. And at my public high school, Asians were the majority (57 percent) with whites a minority (14 percent).

Thus, my closest friends were Asian (as am I). It just so happened that most of the people I interacted with were. There was a general trend among “minorities”: Whites hung out together, as did blacks and Hispanics.

There wasn’t a blatant avoidance of other groups, but that was how things were and nobody thought much of it.

When I arrived at Hopkins, I expected it to be drastically different (with Asians at a mere 22 percent). I thought I’d experience more diverse situations. Somehow, though, I found myself joining an Asian-interest sorority and finding almost exclusively Asian friends — despite Asians composing only one-fifth of the student body. Still, I didn’t notice the pattern that had occurred.

A couple of weeks ago, however, at a dialogue sponsored by the Inter-Asian Council, somebody asked, “Did you ever notice that Asians tend to befriend other Asians and so on?” Then one girl said that she tried specifically to have diverse friends, because she didn’t want to be that girl who hung out with

only other Asians. And then it hit me — I am that girl!

How did it happen? I certainly didn’t go looking for Asian friends. As far as Asians go, my group is even rather diverse: I’m Chinese-Cambodian, my friends are everything from Vietnamese to Filipino to Korean, and I’ve had boyfriends who have been white, Indian, Japanese and Filipino. I didn’t choose any of them because of their ethnicity; they were great people whom I could relate to. Likewise, I didn’t choose to be an Alpha Kappa Delta Phi because it was labeled as an “Asian-interest sorority” but because the sisters made a great effort to reach out to me.

The fact that most of my friends are Asian I attribute to the fact that people tend to flock toward those similar to them. Perhaps it’s an unconscious effort. But I think it’s more that my friends and I have had similar experiences.

We’ve had stereotypically Asian lives, with the intense pressure to get straight A’s (minuses allowed only begrudgingly). We know the difficulties of an Asian eye and make-up. And we’ve been frustrated too many times trying to convince our parents that we’re not going to become.

Still, I know that it’s not just a matter of race — it’s one of comfort, of culture, of connecting with someone. I think this applies to everyone, not just Asians. I also think that if a connection exists with someone, I will pursue it, regardless of physical attributes. And perhaps it’s time for me to step a little outside of my comfort zone in order to find more of those connections. I promise to if you will.

Jackie Huang is a freshman biology major from Silicon Valley, Calif.

That’s how it is

By JUSTIN B. JONES

I have about four white friends and five Asian friends, and I can only think of one Indian girl who regularly says “hello” to me in passing. Hi, I’m Justin Jones, and for those that don’t know I am a black student at Hopkins.

As a pretty active member in our Black Student Union and an Africana Studies major I am often asked to regale others with the empowering tale of struggle and perseverance that is the black student experience here at Hopkins.

Usually I’m more than happy to oblige. The whole Sigma Chi incident is a great story that I’m sure TVOne will have the rights to soon (I do love TVOne), but as interesting as the Halloween in the Hood party was, it is not an everyday thing.

I’m going to be honest with you, white-people-Hopkins isn’t the most negro-friendly campus. I’m not talking about the racism. There are racist incidents here, but those aren’t what really matter on a daily basis. What I am talking about is a genuine disinterest in other people that seems to prevalent at this campus.

I often hear inquiries from a quarter of my white friends about why the black community at Hopkins seems so isolated and introverted and I explain that we’re not. We’re easily one of the most gregarious bunches of people on campus. The problem is that we feel like most other people don’t want to talk to us. Not more than two of us at a time, anyway, and that’s a vibe that a lot of us

receive as soon as we get here.

I cannot tell you how many times you’ll hear black students complain about the lack of diversity in their group of friends. After a few conversations about why there seems to be such a clean racial division on campus, the best I can come up with is this: there is one occurrence that happens to almost every black freshman here at Hopkins that really sets the tone for the rest of their Hopkins career.

It usually occurs some time around Intercession and/or the beginning of second semester. This black freshman will be walking toward Charles Street Market by himself and see a friend of another race from a first-semester class. As the black student attempts to say “hello,” his “friend” will just completely avoid eye contact and walk on by. The two never speak again.

The black freshman may think to himself, “Oh, it’s like that?” Yeah. It’s like that. After a few times, many just become jaded and stop trying to connect with non-blacks. It’s really sad.

There is hope, though. I actually just had an Asian friend of mine apologize for the whole not-speaking-after-class thing. It was really cool of him. My roommates and I went to a kick-ass Bar Mitzvah a few weeks back and that was actually pretty sweet. So, you know ... baby steps.

Justin B. Jones is a sophomore Africana Studies major from Baltimore, Md. He is the Black History Month chair for the BSL.



LAUREN SCHWARZMANN/GRAPHICS STAFF

Language in racial discourse

By WHITNEY SHAFFER

In Sen. Barack Obama’s speech in Philadelphia a few weeks back, he spoke to the power of words, which got me thinking about the vocabulary that I and my peers use to discuss race.

As part of the white hegemony, I am certainly in no place to judge race relations at Hopkins. It is much more appropriate for those who feel the full force of the atmosphere to judge which way the wind is blowing.

I do feel as though I am in a position to comment on the vocabulary and language we use to discuss race, especially positive terms like “multiculturalism.”

It’s difficult for negative words like “anger” or “prejudice,” which have their place in race discourse, to lose their impact. But ameliorative terms that are used to identify solutions tend to lose

their emphasis and meaning as they get diluted by overuse.

“Multiculturalism” isn’t just an –ism defined by the ennui of relativity. Nor is it that scrubbed-clean sentiment as defined by “It’s A Small World” or Olympics bromides. Multiculturalism is the belief in the alchemy of cultural interaction. It’s a messy, mysterious term that places at its core value an acquisition of knowledge and awareness.

While the idea is that each demographic appreciates others’ cultural values, that does not mean accepting them at face value. When engaging in a multicultural dialogue, one must ask questions, demand answers, and appreciate the complexity of what one learns.

A dynamic dialogue helps to create a better idea of not only who we interact with, but what lies in our own identity. And it’s that increasing awareness of self and others that is the true success of multiculturalism.

Racial dialogue has to deal in forceful terms, not only about the illness, but also about the cure. The problem when positive words lose meaning is that the theories behind them lose their significance as well. As a result, people roll their eyes when terms like “multiculturalism” are employed and a substantial part of the dialogue gets lost in the absence of compelling words.

So, how does this apply to Hopkins? The simple answer is that the student body needs to be active. We have many different special-interest groups on campus that put on many events open to the campus, but so often, the student body doesn’t go. It’s a combination of a lack of awareness and a lack of interest. This is where the Hopkins administration needs to step up. While Hopkins has many different ways to support campus events monetarily, it does little to promote the efforts of students. The University needs to promote worthy causes that increase awareness, so that the community can sustain a constant dialogue on culture and heritage, rather than allowing things to foment and explode as they did last year.

Whitney Shaffer is a senior art history major from Lansdale, Pa. and vice-president for multicultural affairs of Delta Xi Phi.

Hopkins: a melting pot?

By CHRISTOPHER LOUIE

Everyone should question the purpose of cultural organizations. Is there a reason to organize the few Latinos on campus beyond being just that: a group of Latinos? What makes people “cultural enough” to be involved? Would it compromise the integrity of the Latino organization if the president was half Chinese — and didn’t always check the ever-so-disputed “Hispanic/Latino” box?

How can students proactively address or gain awareness of disparities facing specific populations? The national high school graduation rate of Latinos is just breaking 50 percent, teen pregnancy is more than double that of Caucasians, prevalence of illicit drug abuse competes with the highest in the country and Latino representation at Hopkins has been stagnant for over five years; there are

serious yet unaddressed issues facing this population — the most rapidly growing ethnic population in the United States.

Issues facing the Hopkins Latino community are “Am I Latino enough?” “I know I’m Latino, but I don’t want to segregate myself” and “I’m not Latino, so what does it have to do with me?”

If everyone passively blends into one population, the campus culture is at a significant disadvantage. This adversely affects the student body at Hopkins because it weakens the fundamental abilities to promote individuality and advance education. Culture and discrimination should be of concern to everyone.

Unmistakably, communication and awareness play a vital role. It may be true that Latino organizations such as OLE will predominantly have Latino members but improved collaboration among organizations and various aspects of student life is the forum to share characteristics of tradition and population concerns.

Campus life defers to indifference toward intercultural involvement, but careful sidestepping of being offensive

or pushing the “large-red-politically-incorrect button” seems prevalent. This cycle only propagates a lack of dialogue and widens cross-cultural gaps.

Cultural groups primarily focus on maintaining community independence, rather than the assumed stereotype of cross-cultural resentment. Resources such as the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Office of Student Involvement actively maintain connection among these groups and play a central role in race relations at Hopkins.

Culture is not an issue of race, but a principle of individuality. Appreciating American culture means appreciating diversity. Unique ideas, expression and heritage were some of the primary reasons for founding America, and the mission of Hopkins is to promote life-long learning of these ideals and explore new ideas of the world. At the end of the day, the term “cultural enough” is irrelevant.

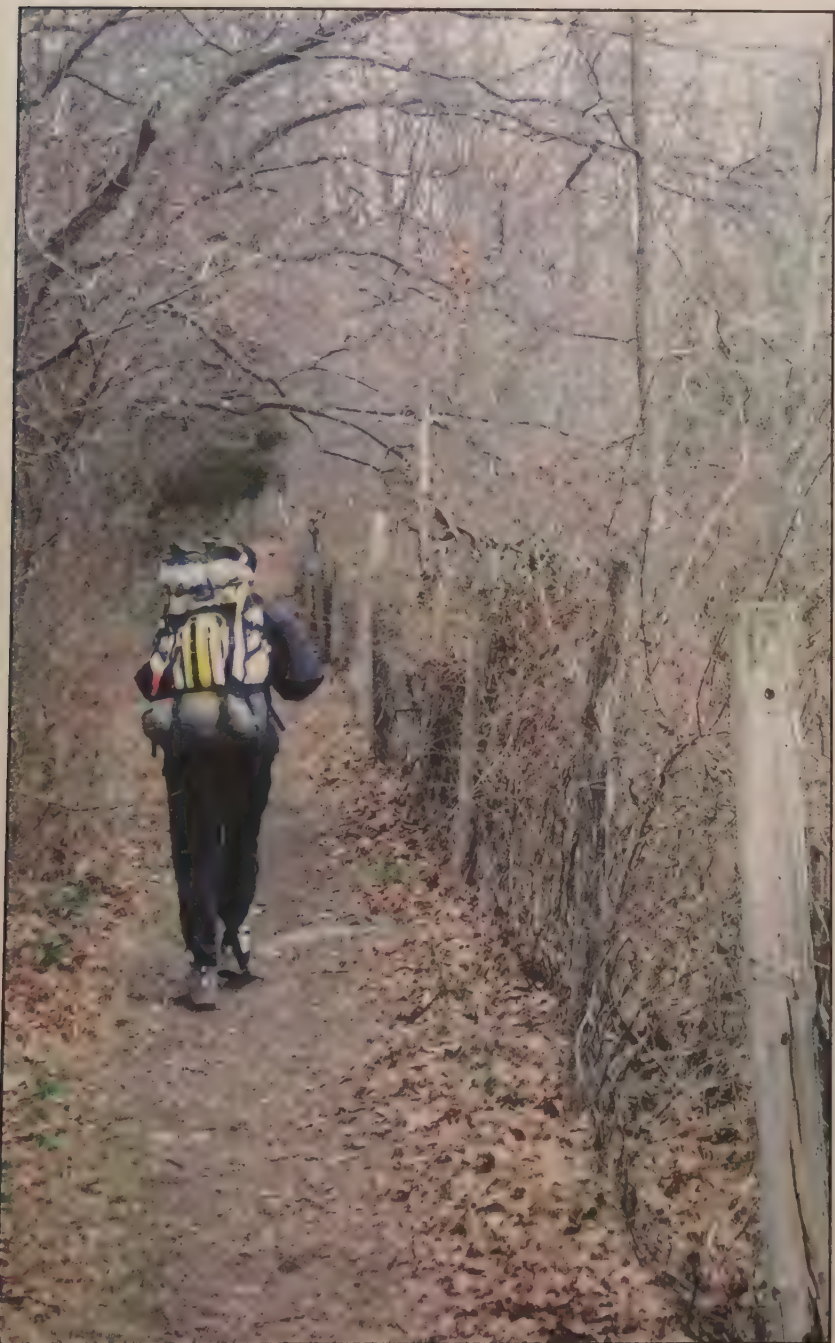
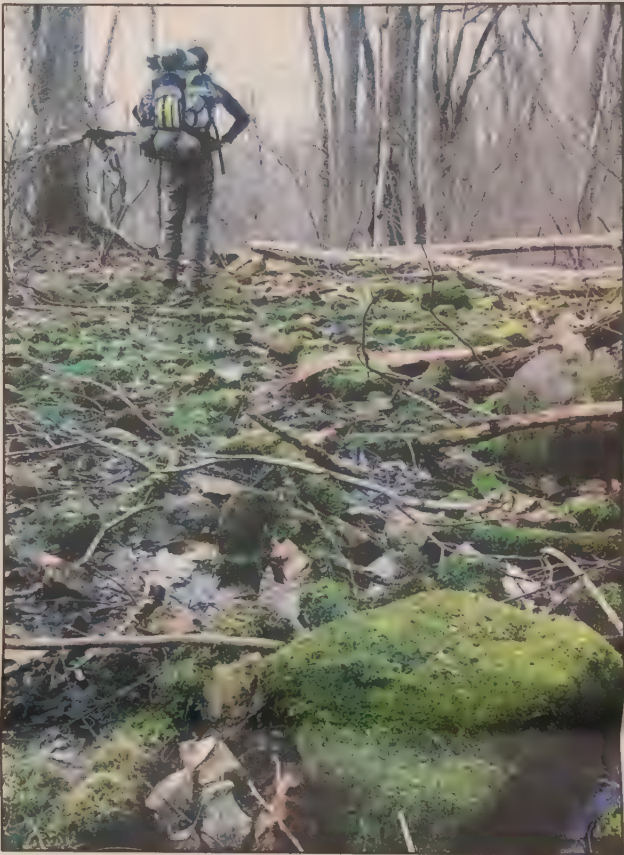
To advance as a student body, an appreciation for diversity is essential as it fosters individuality. As a society and an institution of education, we can all take a lesson from a new perspective.

Natalie Baer is a senior International Studies major from Clinton, N.J. She is president of HAPA.

Christopher Louie is a junior neuroscience major from Firebaugh, Calif. and president of OLE.

HIKING THE TRAIL

The Appalachian Trail, stretching across 2,174 miles of rugged Mid-Atlantic terrain from Georgia to Maine, usually takes about four months to hike. In four days, junior Alex Artaki and I trekked 35 miles from Sky Meadow State Park, Va. to Harpers Ferry, W.Va. Along the way we drank spring water, and we met an interesting "thru-hiker" named Chipmunk on his journey to Maine.



Photos and text by Conor Kevit, Photography Editor

THE B SECTION

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APRIL 3, 2008

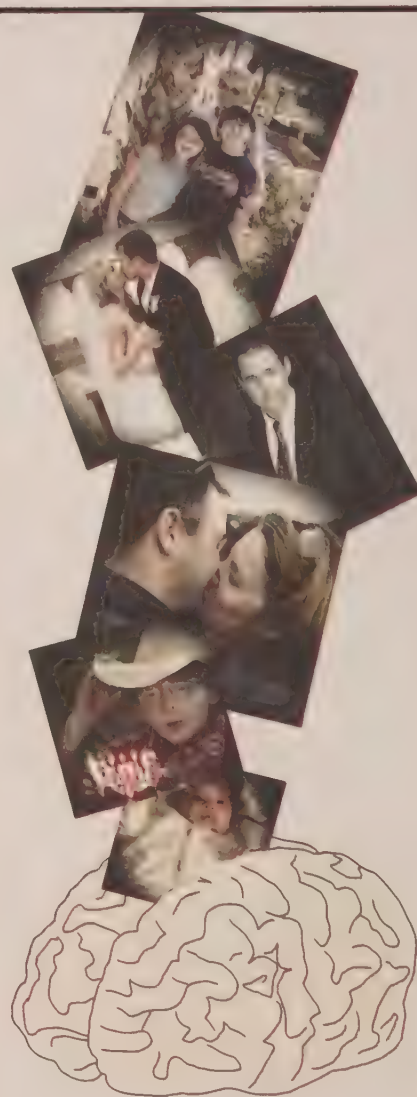
Below the Mason-Dixon, The Thundering of Hooves



By **DEMIAN KENDALL**
Sports Editor

The sun was shining bright against the Carolina blue sky as thousands of cars slowly made their way down the main road in Camden. Country music blared from speakers, passengers sprinted to roadside boiled peanut stands and the air was filled with an electricity that only comes to this small rural town one day a year. It was the day of the Carolina Cup — one of the few instances I will ever wake up before 7 a.m. on a Saturday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10



Anyone who has shared a first kiss, attended a bewildering birthday party or scored a home run knows that certain memories last longer than others. Now, new research is helping scientists to understand why we remember what we do. Read more on page B7.

INSIDE B SECTION



ARTS

- The Death Set killed it at the Lo-Fi Social Club last week. Check it out in our new **Last Week Live** column, **B3**.

YOUR N-L

- Think that time you mistakenly dated your TA was bad for your reputation? We've got you beat, **B8**.

SPORTS

- Take a look at how Hopkins's baseball coach **Bob Babb** has won 800 games in a storied career, **B10**.

CALENDAR APRIL 3 - APRIL 9

APR.
3

Beach House sure to hypnotize in D.C.

Baltimore's own Beach House has solidified a stance in the new indie scene as an appropriately ethereal sounding duo to fit in nicely with the other mellow music that has seemingly surged lately. The dreamy indie-pop duo, made up of guitarist and keyboardist Alex Scally and vocalist/organist Victoria Legrand, creates a sound that is haunting and woozy, a blend of slide guitar, sliding vocals and synth organ.

Indeed, Beach House sounds unlike any other music that has emerged recently, and their first, self-titled release was an immediate indie success, earning its place on many top release lists of 2006. Recorded in two days under no label, the first release took the indie scene by storm. The band members confess that they were lucky to have "caught the moment" on something so admittedly simple.

Their distinctiveness, however, and what immediately set them apart from other artists, draws from their use of the organ in creating harmonies and hauntingly hanging tunes. They emerged with a seemingly "fully formed sound" ripe with striking organs and unique vocals, according to Pitchfork Media.

But the band's name perhaps misguides listeners into thinking that they are about to listen to upbeat hazy summer tunes. Beach House's music is better fit for a late afternoon autumnal daze.

The mood of the first album is exceedingly anguished, and if not for Legrand's angelic voice and implicit introspection that Beach House requires of their listeners, the songs might come off dismal. The standouts from the first album, "Saltwater,"

COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.CARPARKRECORDS.COM](http://www.carparkrecords.com).

Indie duo Beach House brings their rolling synth sounds and mellow mood to D.C.'s Rock and Roll Hotel this Friday, April 4.

"Tokyo Witch," "Apple Orchard" and "Master of None," somehow avoid dreariness and become dreamy instead.

And despite generally well-received reviews, Beach House's second release, *Devotion*, has been noted as a stronger testament to the band's poignancy. More than sorrowful, the songs of Beach House somehow speak to the intimacy between the two artists, a result from the fast friendship the two harbored upon moving to Baltimore.

The darkness of Beach House then becomes alluring and cult-worthy; the sound is far from emo. Legrand, who moved to Baltimore from Paris after finding her profession as a bartender un-

relenting and bleak, has a notable talent for capturing melancholy mood and relaying it beautifully.

Devotion is crisper sounding, slightly brighter in theme, while still maintaining the band's quiet elegance. "D.A.R.L.I.N.G." is similarly stand-out, its organs acting as the song's rhythmic pulse. "Turtle Island" has a playful vocal quality to it, a facet almost entirely absent from their debut release. "Heart of Chambers" is down-tempo but uplifting, quietly subdued but still appropriately intriguing. Legrand's vocals are lonely, layered and noticeably richer than in the tracks on *Beach House*, a production quality that saves them from becoming agreeable, yet ignorable, background

music.

Overall, Beach House is more than a catchy band. They are unforgettable, their tunes lingering in both consciousness and heart after even a first listen. This Friday, the duo comes to our neighboring Washington, D.C., specifically the Rock and Roll Hotel (1353 H St. N.E.), and will be performing with San Francisco's Papercuts. For ticketing information and directions to the venue, visit <http://www.rockandrollhoteldc.com/portal/home/>. The show starts at 9:30, so plan ahead for a great night of mellow, yet hardly lackluster music.

—Dana Covit

MOVIE OPENINGS

Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day

Opening at the Charles Theatre
Friday, March April 4

(410) 727-FILM or <http://www.thecharles.com> for showtimes

COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.MEDIA.MOVIESIGN.COM](http://www.media.moviesign.com)

Set in 1939 London, this comedy stars Frances McDormand as Miss Pettigrew, a middle-aged governess who is catapulted into the dizzying world of an American star, Delsia Lafosse (Amy Adams)

have been paired together to visually express specific historical events and the various ways in which Israeli society has reacted to these events through song. At the opening event, we will be hearing from three Hopkins professors who will speak about Israeli identity as it has developed as a result of its history and culture. The event will feature a performance of Israeli music by a student trio and delicious catered food as well.

tel (1353 H St. N.E.) for a full bar and opening act by the Papercuts. Entrance is \$10. Visit <http://www.rockandrollhoteldc.com/portal/home/> for specific information and other events.

Saturday, April 5

8 p.m. The Bridge
Frequenters of the All Good Music Festival of West Virginia, the Bridge heads to the 8x10 Club this Saturday for what's sure to be a mellow night of bluegrass and funk. The quintet fuses traditional bluegrass, funk, jazz and rock with updated electronica over a solid foundation of folk and blues. Visit <http://the8x10.com> for ticketing information.

8 p.m. DJ AM at Mosaic Lounge.
Mosaic, one of Baltimore's premiere night-life locations, presents America's Top DJ, DJ AM. Mosaic is located at 4 Market Place.

Sunday, April 6

9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Baltimore Yoga Village Open House
The Yoga Village's one-year anniversary celebration includes free yoga classes, mini nutrition consultations, a vegetarian lunch and the chance to win a 10-week yoga pass. If you're looking to turn over a new leaf with spring's inception, Head to Baltimore Yoga Village, located at 3000 Chestnut Ave., No. 15, or call (410) 662-8626 for more information.

Monday, April 7

7 p.m. The Stoop Storytelling: "Coming to America: Immigrant Stories"
Seven storytellers tell their tales of making a new home in Baltimore. Cocktails and live music before show by Caleb Stine and the Brakemen. Tickets are \$12 in advance. Visit <http://www.stoop-storytelling.com> for more information and upcoming shows.

Tuesday, April 8

6:30 p.m. doors. Bob Weir & RatDog.
RatDog, originally RatDog Revue, was formed in 1995 by Grateful Dead singer/guitarist Bob Weir and became Weir's main act just after the band launched its first tour in August 1995, when Grateful Dead singer/guitarist Jerry Garcia died, leading to the dissolution of the Grateful Dead. Tickets are \$39.50; visit <http://www.ramshadlive.com> for purchasing information.

Tuesday, April 8

4:00 p.m. DMC Workshops
Tuesday's DMC workshops include Audio Studio from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., and Page Layout & Publication Design with InDesign from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Digital Media Center workshops are free and open to full-time undergraduate students and are held in the Digital Media Center, located in Suite 226 in the Offit Building of the Mattin Center.

Local Events

Thursday, April 3

6 p.m. Red Jumpsuit Apparatus
Red Jumpsuit Apparatus comes to Fells Point's very own Fletcher's this Thursday. The Florida-based quintet sings about everything from hypocrisies in the music biz, being in love and domestic abuse, and you may have seen them on *The Hills* when the band was being photographed for a Teen Vogue shoot. Entrance is \$11, and Fletcher's is located at 701 S. Bond Street.

Transmodern Festival
Four-day music festival, the Transmodern Festival, begins this Thursday at 8 p.m. and continues until Sunday, April 6. The avant-garde performance festival features four days of music, film and radical culture. Visit <http://transmodernfestival.wordpress.com/> for a complete list of participating artists. Dates and times include Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and 10 a.m. on Sunday. The Transmodern Festival occurs annually at Load of Fun Studios at 120 W. North Avenue.

Friday, April 4

Beach House in D.C.
Baltimore's own indie duo is touring and promoting their newest album, *Devotion*. Recently featured in *Nylon* magazine, Beach House is at the forefront of alternative music's new wave. Head to the Rock and Roll Ho-

Sunday, April 6

7:30 p.m. Hopkins Concerto Competition winners' concert
Bassoonist Katie FitzGibbon and pianist Ji Hea Hwang, winners of the first Hopkins Concerto and Aria Competition, are performing at 7:30 p.m. in Shriver Hall.

Monday, April 7

7 p.m. A History of Israel through Photography and Music
The opening night event for an exhibit entitled *A History of Israel through Photography and Music* will be held on Monday at the Hillel Building (the Smokler Center for Jewish Life, located at 3109 N. Charles St). The exhibit is composed of photos and songs which

Saturday, April 5

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Nature hike: Get off campus and into the woods
Outdoor Pursuits is hosting a nature hike this Saturday for \$10. For more information or to sign up, call (410) 516-4417. No experience is necessary for participation.

12:30 p.m. Body Worlds 2 at Maryland Science Center
Charles Commons Faculty-Student Programming is sponsoring a trip to see *Body Worlds 2*. Buses leave at 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. Tickets are on sale now and must be purchased in advance: \$10 for students, \$15 for faculty. They may

Campus Events

Thursday, April 3

5 p.m.-7 p.m. Images of Justice and Peace in Israel/Palestine
Israeli photographer Esti Tsal and Palestinian filmmaker Rima Essa will display their work. Essa's film "Ashes" will be screened in Mattin 101, and Tsal's photos, from the series "Endless Checkpoints," will be on view.

5 p.m. - 7 p.m. DMC Workshops: Video Editing: Premiere Pro/PC
Digital Media Center workshops are free and open to full-time undergraduate and graduate students on the Homewood campus; Faculty and staff may attend workshops as space allows. All workshops are located at the Digital Media Center, located in Suite 226, Offit Building of the Mattin Center.

7 p.m. Habitat for Humanity Presents: HabijAM!
JHU Habitat for Humanity is hosting HabijAM in the Glass

Pavilion. The event will feature performances by JOSH, the Mental Notes, Shakti and the Entertainers Club.

Friday, April 4

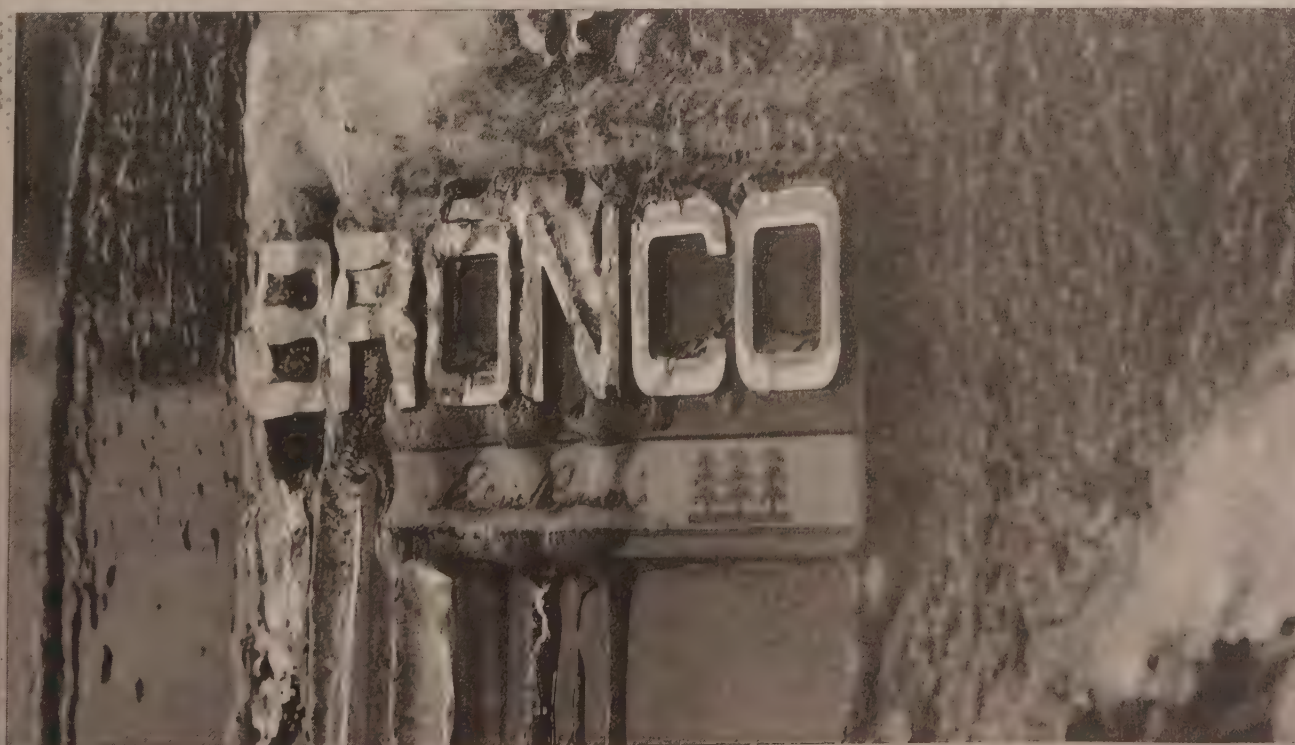
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Sociology and the City: Examining Inequalities in Baltimore
Join the Sociology Department on a bus tour of Baltimore and see the city through the eyes of community activists and Hopkins professors. The event is free and open to all undergraduates, but please register at: <http://www.soc.jhu.edu/undergradcomtour>

7 p.m. Ladybirds Dance Team Spring Concert
Come out and support the official dance team of Johns Hopkins, the Ladybirds, for free at their annual spring concert in the Shriver Hall Auditorium. Guest performers include JOSH, Eclectics, JHU Ballet Company and the Breakdancers.

8 p.m. La Ronde at the Merrick Barn

Exposure

By Conor Kevit



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Innovative comedy, with the occasional “ouch” *Modern Peabody trio fails to capture entire audience*

By **JOHN KERNAN**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Buttered Niblets opened up their show Friday night by violently hurling candy into the crowd. To their credit, they did not know that they were being a bit too forceful, but hands went up to protect faces and panicked cries were heard.

The performers apparently took the cries as ones of jubilation and the gestures as attempts to snatch candy out of the air and so redoubled their treat-dispersing efforts. After a chaotic few seconds it was all over, leaving only a few minor injuries, and the show began.

There is something about live shows that makes everything funnier. Perhaps the psychology majors can tell you why, but the important part is how well it works for the Buttered Niblets. The connection between the performers and the audience was strong last weekend, as is common with improv.

The nature of the form lets us share in the performers' trip-ups, their thought processes, and be especially entertained at the end result.

The Niblets showcased mostly “long-form” games this round. A suggestion from the audience was requested — “pineapples” — and they went with it. Quickly introduced was a theme that would recur throughout the night: violence against children.

In print it sounds almost vile, but it was (mostly) tastefully done, with a continuing story of two lovers whose relationship is based mostly on their mutual love of murdering schoolchildren.

When a member of the troupe thought any particular scene had reached the maximum level of potential humor, he or she would run a quick loop around the cast to “edit” it or signal a change.

I felt that sometimes the players on the sidelines were too hesi-



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Buttered Niblets Adar Eisenbruch, Blake Edwards and Chris Chuang discuss dating across enemy lines in an improv scene.

tant to employ this device, but admit at the same time it is often difficult to tell if the improviser is on the cusp of hilarity or floundering in a bad idea.

After one such change-up, two more themes were introduced: an eccentric couple with a penchant for home shopping and prefacing common nouns with “the,” and the character “Roomba,” a robot who communicates Pokemon-style, only able to say his own name.

Sophomore Eric Levitz did a particularly good job with this character, hilariously capturing all of Roomba's emotions in a single word.

Later, after this first series of sketches, an audience volunteer was requested. They sat the poor girl in the center of the stage, whereupon a “Chorus of Daniel Day-Lewises” emerged — three improvisers reciting the infamous “milkshake” speech from *There Will Be Blood* at full volume and ferocity. The vol-

unteer, of course, lost it.

The group then presented an improv form first introduced by New York group Mother. As explained by senior Adar Eisenbruch, acknowledging this meant they were not plagiarizing.

The Niblets asked, via the all-powerful Facebook, that people submit songs to be included in a sound track. They then reverse-engineered scenes based on what the music suggested, having never previously heard the selections.

While mostly effective, the musically inspired scenes tended to start with someone dancing onto the stage. An isolated occurrence of this would have been fine, but to make almost every scene music-based using the sound track selection seemed a cop-out.

Regardless, luminous freshman Remy Patrizio helped carry many of these scenes, perhaps due to her status as “the only individual with ovaries” performing for the Niblets, thus making her the obvious candidate for romantic scenes.

Only once did I think the Niblets went “too far.” During a techno “Hallelujah” mix, members of a Christian gym declared that they were ready to “knock out Satan,” etc.

Now, Jesus and I aren't exactly the best of buds, but I cringed a little at the declaration (and I paraphrase), “I feel so good. I could stab holes in my hands.” Ouch. Fortunately, the Niblets recovered and ended nicely.

Another volunteer was called, this time to describe his day to the performers. After a hesitant description of his rather unremarkable day, the Niblets performed their interpretation of what his dreams would be that night.

The dream was dominated by penis jokes, a base form of humor

perhaps, but it came directly from the volunteer's description of his daily activities. No, dear reader, it was simply that he and his friends enjoy drawing phalluses on each other's sleeping bodies.

We were revisited by the murderous, pineapple-picking couple later, while they visited an orchard to try to rebuild their now-faltering relationship. It seems they had chased away or killed all prospective toddlers.

In a scene that garnered lots of “awws” from the audience, junior Scott Morse and freshman Mike Alfieri, walking on their knees, played apple-picking preschoolers.

Alfieri's toddler-voice was unexpected and unparalleled, making everything he said sickeningly sweet and face-meltingly cute.

So cute, it turns out, that it turned the hearts of the homicidal couple. Finally, we had a full closure of an improvised storyline. Not a small feat.

There was also an ongoing joke about a high school teacher with a melon-smashing fetish. Along the way, several other fetishists presented themselves, asking various tasks of a Harvard-happy student. Honestly, I think this was the one joke that consistently fell a little flat. Perhaps I too closely associate such things with fruit-smashing comedian Gallagher.

Sure, it's not exactly Colin Mochrie and Ryan Stiles, but the Buttered Niblets put on a good show. The laughter from the audience at times could have been described as “riotous.”

Buttered Niblets shows cost a whopping \$1. Why they even bother, I can't imagine, but it's good for Hopkins students much in need of comic relief.

By **NATALIE BERKMAN**
News-Letter Staff Writer

It is always worth it to see a concert at Peabody. First of all, the building is incredible. I'm not sure how many concert halls they have, but each one seems a work of art. Leith Syminton Griswald Hall, which housed the “New Music — Organically Grown” concert last Saturday, was incredible. Carved paneling, a tapestry and a huge organ were just a few of the features of this hall, aside from its wonderful acoustics.

Secondly, when you see a concert at Peabody, you are seeing some of the future's greatest musicians. Peabody is a world-class conservatory and yet another feature that makes Hopkins so desirable. Sometimes, when seeing a performance such as this last one, you even have the opportunity to see some of today's great performers — the men and women who instruct the students at Peabody. That being said, I don't think there can ever be a bad concert at Peabody, but I still wasn't thrilled with “New Music — Organically Grown.”

Maybe it's just because I'm not a fan of modern music, but this concert made no sense to me. The four songs didn't really sound like much of anything: Jay Clayton (voice) would sing short bursts of seemingly random notes as Eric Kennedy (drums) kept a steady beat in the background; Donald Sutherland pounded out chords on the organ while Gary

Thomas (tenor saxophone/flute) played impressive, but seemingly improvised runs on either of his instruments. Their first piece was called “Fortune Cookie,” and I swear that's not what I hear when I open a fortune cookie. At times, it sounded a little like jazz, but it was still weird, even then.

The orchestrations for this piece and the rest of the concert were strange — it's not often that you hear a tenor saxophone and drum set playing with an organ — but the musicians worked well together. At the end of “Fortune Cookie,” the quartet moved quickly to another piece and the audience didn't even realize it. They didn't applaud until the end of the second piece when they were absolutely sure that the song was over.

The performers were wonderful, as a group and individually, and one day I hope to hear them play music that I can understand. Jay Clayton had a lovely voice when she wasn't making strange sounds. Because of her voice, she has performed at major world venues including Lincoln Center, Sweet Basil, Town Hall, the Kennedy Center, Jazz Alley, and the North Sea and Montmartre Festivals. I believe her voice is well suited for singing jazz, but it was hard to tell while she was singing this “new music.”

Eric Kennedy was a fantastic drummer, which wasn't hard to tell, considering he just played rhythms. His name wasn't in the program, but he played a sort of

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

Senior arts project results in annual Concerto Competition

By **LAUREN LINKS**
For The News-Letter

Unless you're loitering in the halls of the Mattin Center or attending weekend Hopkins Symphony Orchestra performances or a capella concerts, the musical talent at Homewood might completely pass you by. And, what wonderful gifts you would be missing. The need for promoting and rousing more student involvement in the musical arts on campus has been addressed over the years. This year HSO member Hernan del Aguila did not miss an opportunity to help the community grow. Del Aguila used the Senior Arts Certificate Program to create the Hopkins Concerto & Aria Competition.

The competition calls for musical performers to audition their talents, to the end prize of a performance with the Hopkins Symphony Chamber Orchestra. Given that the opportunities for solo instrumentalists or vocalists to perform with an orchestra

are quite rare, the project offers not only healthy competition but a magnificent musical opportunity. So says pianist Ji Hea Hwang, competition winner: “Opportunities to play with an orchestra don't happen often,” and she awaits the excitement of the performance.

The unique project was enabled by an Arts Innovation Grant, which is, unbeknownst to many, funding made available to innovative and community building projects in the arts. Eileen Soskin, Associate Vice Provost for the Arts, and Winston Tabb, Vice Provost for the Arts, review the biannual submissions. When asked about their decision to support Hernan's project Tabb said: “[We] thought this was a great idea — one which would showcase talented students and give them a great experience in auditioning and performing.” Soskin continued: “It was innovative, and it gave JHU's talented students a

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5



COURTESY OF HOPKINS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Hwang has played numerous solo and chamber concerts at Carnegie Hall.

Last Week Live The Death Set

The Death Set's last Baltimore show before jumping into a European tour was full

of local celebrities. From *City Paper* writers to a pudgy, bespectacled, electronic breakout, to the skinny-jeaned drummer of Baltimore's most promising, screamy art-rock quartet, they were all there to send the Australian-born darlings of Baltimore's music scene off with a fond farewell.

The Lo-Fi Social Club, which is, to be honest, much less intriguing than its neighbor Club Choices, was packed and annoyingly well-lit for the show that also featured Matt and Kim, Naked on the Vague, and the Pharmacy. The Death Set marched their equipment through the thick crowd and set up on a stage that was completely invisible throughout the set. One thing that is unique to the Death Set, something I've yet to see any other band do, is that they introduce each song in a set with a pop song. After warming up to Fannypack's “Hey Mami,” they strummed along to the Jackson Five's “I want you back” and a few others before launching into “Impossible.”

“For hometown shows I try and make them special and infrequent these days,” said lead singer Johnny Sierra, “always with

my friends' bands ... so they've been crazy and super fun.”

At one point Sierra stood on what may have been an amp (this was the only point at which I actually saw a member of the band) and he didn't exactly fit.

Using a hand to balance against the ceiling he sang an entire song crunched between amp and ceiling with a smile on his face as he swung the mic around like nunchucks.

The nuclear weapon in the Death Set's loaded arsenal is “Positive Thinking.” It's an infectious upbeat punk anthem about fallen idols that is just as good on its 67th listen as it is on its first. It combines everything magical about the Baltimore electronic sound with lyrics that come from somewhere between Australia and

Brooklyn.

They tore through the 13-song set in under 45 minutes, which was actually pretty refreshing. It was just enough to whet my appetite for mayhem.

Their first full-length album, *Worldwide*, is due out this week and Sierra promises, “real fun, spazzy, uptempo punk,” that we've seen from their live shows and other EPs. “This time I had more fun with it and got to ex-

periment some different styles, and stuff, but overall, it's fun!” Sierra said.

At Lo-Fi they closed their set, with a cover of Nirvana's “Territorial Pissings,” an effect that was almost lost due to the mismatched levels at club.

The group had just finished conquering the South by Southwest festival in Texas and are poised to take over Europe with their new album in tow.



COURTESY OF MARGARET BELL

Gary Thomas, director of Jazz studies at Peabody boasts over 90 recordings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH SISK / JOSHSISK.COM

The Lo-Fi Social Club serves as the setting of a sweaty mosh-pit in honor of performers the Death Set.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

French film tries too hard to shock audiences

By SARAH SABSHON
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Les Témoins, or *The Witnesses* is the most recent French film export to arrive in the United States.

The film takes the viewer back to the mid '80s, when AIDS revealed itself to the world and became an international epidemic.

Les Témoins depicts the course of a year in the lives of a small circle of people.

The central figure is a young novelist, Sarah, who, despite the birth of her first child, remains in an open relationship with her police officer husband, Mehdi (played by Sami Bouajila.)

Adrien, a friend of Sarah's, is a doctor who finds the love of his life in an 18-year-old boy, Manu, who lives in a whorehouse with his older sister.

Unfortunately, Adrien's love goes unrequited as Mehdi soon begins a passionate homosexual affair with Manu. Tearing the seams of friendship and intimacy, Manu's short existence ends in the arrival of a mysterious and unknown disease.

Renowned director and co-writer André Techiné revels in the provocative. Graphic homosexual relationships, AIDS, death, promiscuity and neglect of children are all bunched together to form the plot.

This isn't to say that the film doesn't succeed, but it is evident that Techiné wanted to provoke the viewer.

At times, Techiné appeared more focused on the shock factor of the film rather than on the actual mechanics of the script, resulting in a number of problems in the film.

Techiné chose to separate *Les Témoins* into three parts, which



Blanc, Béart and Bouajila welcome Lorenzo Balducci to their regular summer get-togethers towards the end of *Les Témoins*.
COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.CINEFRANCE.COM

veered toward a more "showing" than "telling" manner in order to divide the journeys of the characters.

Part One, called "Happy Days," is set in the summer of 1984, when Sarah gives birth, Adrien meets Manu, Manu sleeps with Sarah's husband and they all get together on weekends to bask in the French sunlight.

Once Manu discovers that he has contracted AIDS, the viewer doesn't need to be explicitly told that things are going to head downhill.

In addition, the film is sporadically narrated by Sarah, as if she is writing the story we are watch-

ing (which is indeed what happens at the end of the film, when Sarah escapes writer's block with Manu's story). However, Techiné should have allowed Sarah to narrate the entire film or forgotten it altogether. Instead, her uneven voiceovers seem out of place.

Mehdi is a Parisian cop who focuses on prostitution in the city.

Techiné never resolves the importance of Mehdi's obsession with ending the city's infamous prostitution rings in connection with his homosexual tendencies.

Additionally, many of the characters seem to lack any real depth.

This is especially true of the female leads. Sarah (Emmanuelle Béart), while considered "the hottie" of the film, flouncing around in flimsy yellow dresses, lacks any real presence and is unbelievable as a novelist.

She does, however, manage to portray the negligent mother adequately.

Julie Depardieu, daughter of famous Gérard, plays Julie, Manu's opera-singer sister who lives in poverty until the end of the film when she plays Barbarina in *The Marriage of Figaro*.

While Depardieu did a fine job, her character was totally removed from the rest of the plot and characters. She spends most of the film alone and unrealistically content with this solitary life.

Techiné missed a prime opportunity to explore Julie's artist figure and the emotions associated with the Manu's illness. Depardieu's delicate features would have lent themselves to a touching melancholy.

Manu (played by Johan Libéreau), while sweet and likeable, is relatively shallow for a lead role. He basically skips through the film, smiling and only appears to be driven through life by sex.

Only towards the very end, after this death, the audience gets a window into his psyche with a recording of his life story.

Michel Blanc, as Adrien and Sami Bouajila, as Mehdi, however, saved the film.

While the connection to Sarah is never clear, Blanc's thoughtful, lonely and love-starved Adrien is the only empathetic character in the film.

The moment that Adrien discovers that Mehdi is sleeping with Manu is simply the most heart-wrenching scene in a generally depressing film.

Bouajila won the César Award (think French Oscars) for Best Supporting Acting for his role as Mehdi, and rightfully so.

In perhaps the most complicated role of the film, Bouajila captures Mehdi's sexual confusion, frustration and fear.

One never finds out if this is Mehdi's first homosexual relationship or not, and that ambiguity only adds richness to his character.

Julien Hirsch's cinematography is simply superb, bringing an intensity and beauty to the film.

Capitalizing on the summer setting, Hirsch uses water as a motif in the film, perhaps to show the flow of life, an element that Techiné acknowledges in his third part of the film.

Manu inevitably dies two-thirds into the film. At first it seems unnecessary that the film continues after his death.

However, upon further contemplation, the purpose of the film, as indicated by the title *The Witnesses*, Techiné created this film as a testament to AIDS and the continuation of life afterwards.

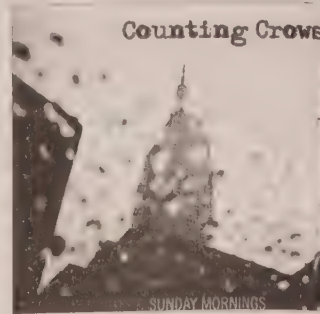
The film has its problems; there is no doubt about that. Yet Techiné has made a film that leaves you thinking about it long after you have left the theater.

His foray into the lives of Parisians who experience their first interaction with AIDS makes the disease all the more personal and difficult. And yes, despite the fear and hardship, ultimately life must go on.

By intertwining the lives of individuals with the disease in *Les Témoins* rather than making a documentary, Techiné creates increased awareness, bringing AIDS closer to home.

New Vibrations

Counting Crows
Saturday Nights and Sunday Mornings
Geffen
March 25, 2008



The first boy I ever loved introduced me to Counting Crows, and with that began a love affair that has lasted longer than any other relationship. Despite Adam Duritz's distinct voice overlaying every track of every album, each song has a unique sound, suitable for every mood and every situation. Beginning with their first hit album *August and Everything*, Counting Crows' hit their stride in the mid-'90s, continuing into the new millennium with a solid fan base. For the first time in six years and much to the pleasure of followers, Counting Crows has released a new album, *Saturday Nights and Sunday Mornings*.

In an interview Duritz described the thinking behind the album, which is divided into halves, as, "Saturday night is when you sin, and Sunday is when you regret." *Saturday Nights* was produced by Gil Norton, the genius behind Counting Crows' most innovative (if relatively unknown) second album, *Recovering the Satellites*. *Satellites* boasted a more rock sound with harder guitar riffs and vigorous drums. *Saturday Nights* contains a similar motif, although tends toward a more "hit or miss" with each song.

"1492" is the most raw I've ever heard Counting Crows sound and frankly, they sound quite unlike themselves. It's churning and angry; a seemingly unusual choice as the first song on a long awaited album. Yet, somewhere beneath all the music, the pensive and provocative lyrics that Counting Crows are famous for are revealed. "Oh where did we disappear, into the silence that surrounds us and then drowns us in the end, where these people who impersonate our friends..."

"Los Angeles" is one song I could have done without. Admittedly, the melody works really well in that slightly bluesy style, and the subject seems to be a favorite of Duritz ("Goodnight L.A." anyone?) However, somewhere towards the end of

the song, we hear, "We're gonna get drunk, find ourselves some skinny girls and go street-walkin.'" Dear god, Duritz, what happened to those excerpts of poetic prose I just praised? Rather the Crows used this as an advertisement for L.A.'s good tacos.

Saturday Nights' "Hanging Tree," "Insignificant" and the final "Cowboys" are true testaments to the greatness of the Counting Crows.

The album then switches gears into *Sunday Mornings* with "Washington Square," an acoustic, mellow piece indicative of the softer sound to the latter half of the album, which was created in the hands of Brian Deck, associated with Iron & Wine. Critics have claimed that *Sunday Mornings* is simply dull; however, I found the tracks generally enjoyable — just purely suited to another mood, such as those lazy Sunday mornings for which they were intended.

In all honesty, the second half of the album is not as technically complex and interesting as the first half. Sometimes Duritz's voice doesn't seem suited for the mellower tracks and the songs can take on a "ho-hum" quality. However, "When I Dream of Michelangelo" succeeded with a more Southern plucking of the guitar, and "On a Tuesday in Amsterdam Long Ago" is a beautiful piano track.

The album ends with another Norton piece, "Come Around," which is the perfect way to wrap up the album, leaving a pleasant taste in the listener's mouth.

Saturday Nights and Sunday Mornings isn't perfect — a few stinker lyrics and some boring melodies put a damper on the return of Counting Crows. Yet Duritz and the rest of the band managed to create some excellent songs, making up about two-thirds of the album. Let's hope that this release marks the start of a fruitful next few years in Counting Crows production.

— Sarah Sabshon

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter



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The Hush Sound
Goodbye Blues
Atlantic
March 18, 2008



The last time we heard from the Hush Sound was on their sophomore album, *Like Vines*. This came on Pete Wentz's label, Fueled by Ramen, another example of a continuing theme of this writer's reviews. Perhaps we will re-title this column "New from Pete Wentz."

But we are here to discuss the Hush Sound. *Like Vines* was a poppy, catchy album with several standout tracks that got your toes a-tappin'.

Lead singer Greta Salpeter's voice was light and clear, though backup singer Robert Morris sometimes made too sharp a contrast.

Now on *Goodbye Blues*, the Hush Sound has moved toward maturity while still trying to retain some of its original catchy charm.

The first single, "Medicine Man," is a more bluesy, jazzy song. Salpeter's voice loses some of its clarity but gains something in growly emotion. I was reminded very distinctly of Fiona Apple's better work.

Salpeter groans deep blues notes and gives a "whoa-oh" to challenge Amy Winehouse. But what of those of us who liked the Hush Sound for the clarity, for the airiness? We're left a bit out.

We can't be sure if this change is good or bad, but it is there. I found it best to accept it and move on.

Or take "Honey" as another example. The band goes into more mature, art-forward lyrics and stylings. It's a good, catchy track.

However there is a certain *Like Vines* quality that is missing.

My biggest problem with the Hush Sound's music in the past had been Morris's vocals, which generally sounded underproduced, where some basic volume reduction or equalizing could have made it clash a bit less.

But with *Goodbye Blues*, for example on "The Boys are Too Refined," Morris's voice comes through as a backup-or-occasional-lead vocalist's should. It's clearer, better balanced and fits more neatly into the music. In this, Morris, at least, has unquestionably improved.

It's hard to say where the dice fall on this album. If you found *Like Vines* a little wanting as far as credibility goes, this is the step up you've been waiting for.

But, on the other hand, if you want another album of drunken tracks that you can sing along to, you'll have to wait for Wentz's next prodigy band.

— John Kernan

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Concerto competition wins praise *Organic trio leaves bad taste*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

new way of sharing their artistic gifts not just with the JHL community, but with all of Baltimore."

The final project was ultimately made possible by the work of creator Hernan del Aguila and his collaboration with HSO General Manager Edie Stern. HSO Musical Director Jed Gaylin and Homewood Arts Director Eric Beatty were also integral in making his dream a reality. Del Aguila admits to feeling greatly indebted to them.

The winners of this year's competition include junior pianist Ji Hea Hwang and senior bassoonist Katie FitzGibbon, who auditioned in early February against 21 other applicants.

Both have spent a decade or more with their instruments and are exemplars of dedicated and passionate musicians.

Hwang's interest in piano sways between a personal affinity — in that the piano provides her a unique venue for emotional expression — and technical challenges, such as the numerous concerts and competitions she has participated in.

Driven by both, she is able to overcome the often harrowing anxieties and frustrations of performance.

Katie FitzGibbon is pleased to spread awareness of the beauties and difficulties of the bassoon to the greater community.

"The bassoon," she said, "can be very rich and singing, while maintaining its mischievous edge."

It's this enveloping sound that lured her away from her first instrument, the flute.

"All instruments have their challenges," she admitted, "but bassoon has a particularly difficult set of keys. The fingerings are awkward, with up to nine keys for one finger."

The challenge of the bassoon is an ongoing attraction for FitzGibbon. When asked about her upcoming performance, she remarked, "Bassoon solos are rare, so I hope the audience en-



COURTESY OF DAVID FRIEDLANDER
FitzGibbons started with flute and piano but moved onto bassoon in middle school.

joys a new and fun experience."

The upcoming show on April 6 will not be a testament to the success of the project, for that it seems, has already been revealed.

The goal of providing a performance opportunity is imbedded. But its ability to facilitate community growth and music awareness is not guaranteed. Yet the Concerto & Aria Competition has proven itself.

Describing her experiences thus far, FitzGibbon said that it has succeeded in "allowing various members of the community to come together a perform great pieces. I have very much enjoyed the diversity of the musicians, as they are undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and other members of the community ... The orchestra really helps to bridge the gap between students and faculty."

Conducted by Vladimir Lande, the orchestra will be playing Carl Maria von Weber's Bassoon "Concerto in F Major," "Opus 75" (soloist Katie FitzGibbon) and Camille Saint-Saens's "Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Opus 22" (Ji Hea Hwang on piano). The performance is this Sunday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Shriver Hall.

With a low admission price, (students' entrance is free), hopefully the community will appreciate the efforts of students, administration and lovers of music to share their gifts.

It seems that with the infrastructure already established, the competition will continue into the future as an annual Hopkins tradition.

Hernan del Aguila expressed his desire that the competition "will hopefully go on for years to come."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

cadenza that was incredible. Donald Sutherland is a member of the Peabody faculty and a renowned organist, so I was shocked to hear him playing this piece.

I would think he is used to playing the music of Bach, Mozart or other composers who wrote actual melodies, but I guess it's good that even organists can branch out into modern music.

Gary Thomas was very impressive with both of his instruments. According to the program, he is a Baltimore native who is leaving "prominent marks on contemporary jazz."

Also, one of the pieces they performed, "The Blue of the End," was composed by a Peabody student, Ying-Chen Kao, who is currently pursuing a DMA in composition. I didn't understand her piece at all, but I didn't understand any of the pieces they played.

As a group, the performers were very attentive and were constantly looking and playing off of each other.

I usually prefer music that makes sense to me: pieces with melodies, refrains, real chords etc.

If I had wanted to attempt to enjoy this concert, I would have

had to study this music diligently, and as a Hopkins student, who has time for that?

Even after studying it, I doubt I would have understood it. Someone would have had to explain it to me.

I don't see much fun in that. I'd rather go to a Peabody concert where the focus is on a famous old composer whose music is still around today and has survived the test of time.

I doubt this style of modern music will be around a hundred years from now, but Mozart will still grace every concert hall.

In a hundred years, there will be a new type of music but maybe it won't be "organically grown."

Overall it was an interesting

concert, but it didn't appeal to me. The audience seemed to respond well to the pieces, however.

I suppose, at a concert such as this, the majority of the people are there because they like the style.

Leah Heyn, a piano teacher who takes classes at Peabody, was enthralled by the music and the performers.

"The main body [of "Lines and Spaces: A Dream Suite" by Jay Clayton] was an actual reading of most of Langston Hughes's poem 'Dreams,'" she told me. "[Clayton's] rendition of it was wonderful."

I still believe that you can't see a bad concert at Peabody, but you can certainly see some pretty strange ones.



COURTESY OF MARGARET BELL
Vocalist Jay Clayton released a book on teaching jazz singing in 2001 in addition to numerous recordings.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Imaging study shows how brain remembers details of life

By BEN KALLMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

New research from a group at Hopkins has pinpointed the area of the brain that allows us to detect subtle differences in our environment and store that information in our memory.

The study, authored by Craig Stark of the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and published last week in *Science*, helps elucidate the neural processing that goes into declarative memory, the aspect of human memory that allows us to remember everything from the capital of Bolivia to our first day of school.

Current theories of how declarative memory works suggest that two opposing but complementary processes take place in the brain. One involves the recognition or "completion" of patterns: You can equate two similar environmental cues, even though they may not be entirely identical.

Imagine looking at your mother's face from different angles or in different lighting. You're still able to identify that particular combination of eyes, nose and mouth as "mom," despite variation in shadow and perspective.

The second process is called pattern separation. This involves dissociating two similar (but not identical) events or images.

"We need to be able to separate events in our mind and *not* do completion. Where did I park my car today? I need to be able to have today isolated from yesterday, the day before, last week, and so on, so that I can go to the right spot," Stark said.

In that sense, pattern separation allows us to notice small changes in our environment, a

process that's arguably been fundamental to our success as a species.

"Another example is that we need to learn the names of people we meet," Stark added. "Sometimes the person looks very unique and this isn't a challenge. But other times they're not. Two brothers, for example: Internally, we need to separate our representations of the two people so that we can learn things about one without having it spill over onto another."

A host of recent research has shown fairly conclusively that a brain area called the hippocampus is where all this completion and separation takes place. Researchers have known for decades that the hippocampus is critical to creating new memories, but a step-by-step timeline of memory formation has remained elusive.

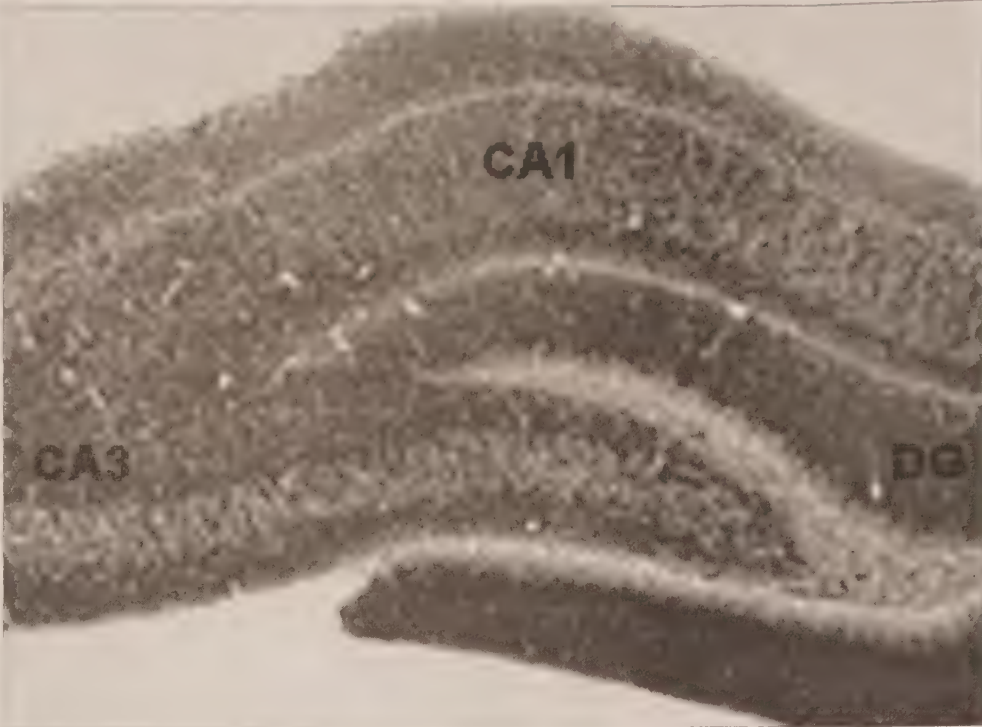
Figuring out where in the hippocampus a computational process like pattern separation takes place will further our understanding of how memory works in general.

And that's exactly what Stark and his colleagues set out to do. As with most neuropsychological studies, their experiment's design was the secret behind its novel results.

Though the scientists undeniably wanted to study the neural basis of memory, they were obliged, in their choice of stimuli, to take memory out of the equation.

This is because memory capacities vary from person to person, so, in order to balance one subject's particularly good memory or another's particularly lousy one, the study's stimuli had to avoid being overtly memory-based.

In each round of testing,



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A stained tissue section of the hippocampus shows three areas important in memory formation: CA1, CA3 and dentate gyrus.

subjects were presented with one of three pictures, which Stark and his colleagues termed "novel," "repeated" or "lure." Novel indicated the first time the subject saw a given picture—for example, a light switch — while repeated corresponded to the presentation of an identical picture.

However, lure, as its name suggests, was a little trickier. It involved presenting subjects with a slight variation on the previous picture. In the case of the light switch, for instance, the switch was up in the novel and repeated pictures but down in the lure picture.

In all three situations, the researchers measured their

subjects' brain activity using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), a technique that uses changes in how blood is supplied to the brain to pinpoint areas of increased neural activity.

Since the brain areas Stark and his colleagues were interested in were quite small, they took very detailed snapshots of activity, each of which consisted of cubes only 1.5 millimeters on each side.

If pattern completion was taking place in a certain area, the researchers hypothesized that there should be no difference in brain activity elicited by the novel picture and the lure.

In other words, if the hippocampus is completing a pattern, it should dismiss any small differences and "see" an identical picture.

On the other hand, pattern separation in any given area should cause different levels of activity between the novel picture and the lure. This would indicate the small differences between the two had been noticed.

After tabulating their data, the researchers saw different activity levels in only one region of the hippocampus, an area that included two adjacent structures called CA3 and the dentate gyrus.

This wasn't exactly a surprise. Past studies have hinted that the dentate gyrus creates what neuroscientists call a "sparse code," in which a single environmental cue elicits a reaction in a very small group of brain cells.

Take this example: You feel the same prick when you poke your finger with either a No. 2 or

a No. 3 pencil. A "sparse code" in this case would be one in which a single group of touch receptors on your skin would react to a single pencil type (one group for No. 2 and one for No. 3).

A perfectly sparse code is half-jokingly referred to as a grandmother cell, because, in theory, it only responds to one particular stimulus (your grandmother, for example).

It's now thought that such a one-to-one association doesn't exist in the brain, but response to a stimulus can be limited to relatively few cells. In the hippocampus, then, one can imagine that a specific population of neurons reacts to the picture of the "on" light switch and another reacts to one that is "off."

This, in effect, is how our brains parse the distinct identities of two very similar stimuli, and more broadly, how you always know your mother when you see her.

Stark says future research will focus on how pattern separation abilities degrade with age. "We think that normal healthy aging leads to an impairment in pattern separation," he said.

"What do people have trouble with as they age? Things that require pattern separation, that is, remembering the details of an episode versus the general idea."

Stark also hypothesizes that disorders like Alzheimer's disease tax the pattern separation system more than normal aging: "We're working to detail the behavioral issues you have with separation, detail the functional MRI changes, link them and try to see how this is affected by or could predict Alzheimer's."

Meteorites may seed life on Earth

By VRITIKA PRAKASH
News-Letter Staff Writer

No one really knows how life originated on Earth. Scientists have several plausible theories, but one that has gained currency in recent years might surprise you.

Panspermia is the idea that life, or at least the molecules necessary for life, might have come to our planet from other celestial bodies. Thanks to the discovery of organic chemicals on two meteorites, there is new evidence to support this theory.

Amino acids are the essential building blocks of proteins in all Earth-bound organisms, from the simplest bacteria to humans. Proteins, in turn, are key molecules in all of the chemical pathways of life.

It had been thought that amino acids were formed in the early environment of the Earth, thanks to a chemical soup in our seas and atmosphere and the higher temperatures of that time.

Scientists lead by Conel Alexander of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, a private scientific research center, examined three asteroids found in Antarctica in the early 1990s. These chondrites, as they are called, broke off of a larger asteroid formed in the earliest period of our solar system.

The researchers took samples from the chondrites to determine their age and chemical makeup. Although amino acids have been found on meteorites before, these chondrites have a concentration of amino acids over ten times greater than any other found.

Scientists believe that the amino acids were formed in the carbon-containing asteroids in the presence of water and ammonia, a simple nitrogen-containing compound. When the asteroid shattered, amino acids rained down onto neighboring planets.

These amino acids could be related to those that originated life on Earth. Each amino acid can be considered "left-handed" or "right-handed" depending on its shape. Virtually all amino acids on Earth are left-handed, but no one really knows why.

The amino acids found on the Antarctic chondrites were all left-handed, just like the ones found in living cells. Could amino acids from deep space have seeded life on Earth, providing a chemical input necessary for life to begin?

Although no conclusive evidence has been found, this hypothesis is a distinct possibility for the origins of life.

Brain uses sense of touch to see the world

By DEANNA CHIECO
For The News-Letter

Have you ever wondered how your brain distinguishes between objects? We are all aware of the edges of a textbook, the curves of a coffee cup and the orientation of a pencil in relation to paper.

Our brains can perceive the shape of an object not only when we see it (visual stimulation) but also when we touch it (tactile stimulation).

Researchers from the Krieger Mind/Brain Institute on the Homewood campus examined how slight differences in the orientation of an object are perceived by sensory information from the fingers.

We rely on our sense of touch, or our somatosensory system, to interact with other objects in the world. When we touch an ice cube, receptors in our hand let the brain know that the ice is cold.

We can feel the smoothness of a piece of glass, the sharp corners of a table, the roundness of a ball and countless other tactile perceptions.

Results recently published in the journal *Somatosensory and Motor Research* show evidence of a sensory threshold in a person's ability to determine differences in the orientation of bars and edges.

Imagine that you are holding a pencil. You are aware if this pencil is vertical, perhaps ready to write something on a page. You would also be able to feel if the pencil is horizontal and you are about to pick it up from your desk.

The researchers wanted to examine the adeptness of the sensory receptors in a person's fingers, and subsequent processing in the higher-level cortex, at distinguishing between slightly different angles of a bar.

They used a fingerpad, which consisted of individual pins, in order to simulate the types of surfaces normally encountered. A person places one finger on this pad, which contains 400 tiny pins in a small area.

In one experiment, the fingerpad presented a bar in different orientations, varying by a fixed number of degrees. For example, several of the pins would become elevated in a horizontal line at zero degrees.

Subjects would then have to choose an image that corresponded to the orientation of the bar that they perceived.

The researchers considered other variables that might enhance or detract from the processing of orientation discrimination.

For example, the degree of

indentation caused by the pins into the finger was changed in one experiment. Also, the speed at which the bar passed over the pins was considered an important factor.

Interestingly, the amount of pin indentation and the speed resulted in only marginal effects on the subjects' ability to distinguish angles.

This important finding suggests that cortical neurons are able to maintain consistent perception of the orientation despite other changes in the stimulus.

The main discovery of these tactile perception experiments was that the human threshold for distinguishing between angular orientations is about 20 degrees.

This means that a person could distinguish between a line at 20 degrees and at 40 degrees but will be unlikely to detect a difference between 20 and 30 degree lines.

The Mind/Brain Institute researchers also observed that orientation acuity was highest for horizontal stimuli, when a bar at zero degrees was simulated by the fingerpad.

This contradicts previous findings that there was greater tactile sensitivity for both horizontal and vertical stimuli, and the least amount of detection at an oblique angle like 45 degrees.

Yet this recent publication finds that there is a smaller angular threshold for horizontal stimuli rather than vertical ones.

This means that it is easier for a finger to distinguish between bars that are both around zero degrees and that it becomes harder to distinguish between bars around 90 degrees, or parallel with the finger.

Studying the response to different orientations of stimuli leads to greater understanding of the cortical processing of sensory inputs. Our sense of touch allows us to experience the texture, temperature, size, orientation and shape of objects in the world.

Further research into how we experience shape raises interesting questions about how the visual and tactile systems may differentially process information as well as how higher-level processing may piece together all of these different aspects in order to create a complete sensory experience of our surroundings.

Gene changes affect lung cancer recurrence

By ALICE WU
News-Letter Staff Writer

For many malignant cancers — cancers that are potentially deadly — a common treatment is surgical removal of the tumor. Surgery has a fairly high success rate for treating many cancers.

However, for patients with one kind of lung cancer, surgical treatment fails in 30 to 40 percent of cases, and many of those patients die.

Malcolm Block and colleagues at Hopkins Hospital looked for clues to this problem in the DNA of patients with early stage non-small-cell lung cancer.

One factor that might contribute to the high recurrence rate after surgery is the methylation of cancer genes involved in the progression of lung cancer.

Methylation is a type of epigenetic modification, a kind of regulation in which DNA is altered during an organism's lifetime without changing its base sequence.

By methylating a DNA sequence, the cell can silence a gene — prevent it from becoming a protein — without permanently changing the strand.

A laboratory technique called methylation-specific PCR was used to define patterns of DNA methylation in these patients to better characterize the behavior

of cancerous tumors, as well as to detect small, hidden metastases, or spreading cancers, in benign tumors and healthy lymph nodes. Lymph nodes are common places to find tumor cells that are spreading throughout the body.

Patients who underwent surgery without lapsing back into cancer were matched with patients who did relapse on the basis of age, stage of the disease, gender and date of treatment.

Blind tissue specimens were taken from all patients and DNA samples were extracted from them. A small amount of DNA was purified.

A total of 889 samples of DNA from tumor and lymph-node tissue were examined through gel electrophoresis of the methylation-specific PCR product, which allowed researchers to determine the length of the DNA fragment.

The death of all of the patients were found to be cancer-related, with frequent recurrences of cancer in the lungs, followed by metastasis to bones and brains.

The methylation profiles of

seven genes were obtained, and four genes in particular were observed to have large differences in distribution of methylation in the tissue samples. Of these four genes, p16 and CDH13 were associated with a significant chance of recurrence.

The survival rate of patients without methylation in any of the four genes was 27.3 percent.

Methylation of both p16 and CDH13 in the tumor and the mediastinal lymph nodes, which are located in the chest between the two lungs, yielded a low survival rate of 14.3 percent.

The study indicated that modification of certain genes in specific tissues is associated with recurrence of a tumor.

This study also demonstrates that patients could have microscopic disease in apparently normal lymph nodes and not have any clinical symptoms until it's too late.

Furthermore, success in this research provides a new assay for evaluation of disease recurrence and survival rate in non-small-cell lung cancer patients.



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Touch receptors in the hand can determine the angle of a pencil without using vision.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Measles virus slows progression of HIV infection

By APURVA YELURU
For The News-Letter

HIV/AIDS is one of the most pressing public health concerns today. Hopkins researchers have made a potentially important and surprising advance in the treatment of the disease. They found that the virus that causes measles could reduce the effects of HIV.

The group, led by William Moss from the Bloomberg School of Public Health, studied the effects of the measles virus on HIV-infected cells. Measles, a viral disease like AIDS, used to be a major problem until the late 20th century when a vaccine was discovered.

Measles is now almost eradicated in the developed world, but continues to be a major cause of death in underdeveloped areas.

Moss's group found that the measles virus blocks the proliferation or production of white blood cells, which host the HIV virus in the bloodstream.

When HIV enters the body, it finds shelter in CD⁺4 cells, a specific type of white blood cells, in the lymph tissue. Lymph is responsible for keeping the body clean and defending it against

pathogens. HIV/AIDS is deadly because it kills white blood cells, leaving the body vulnerable to infection.

Without the antibodies produced by the body to counter the invasion, a small infection can get out of hand and kill the host.

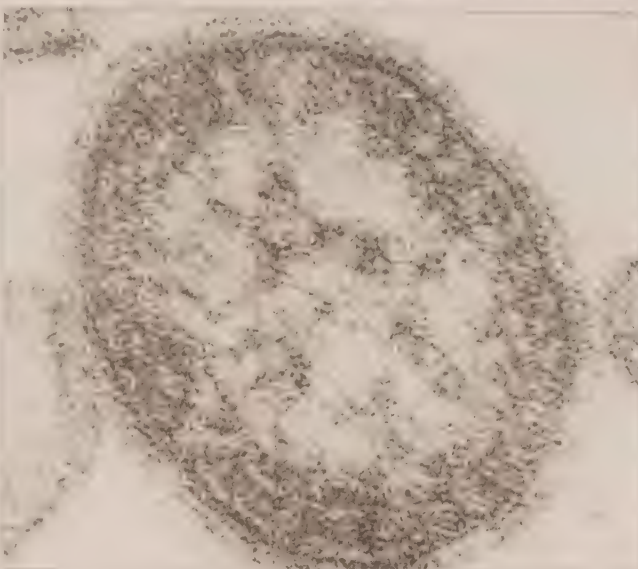
The measles virus also infects lymph tissue once it enters the body. The virus kills cells by fusing multiple cells together.

Measles causes rashes, severe cold-like symptoms and sometimes diarrhea. If no other complications arise, the disease will run a two-week course, by which time the body will have caught up and treated itself.

In this study, it was found that a cell once infected by the measles virus will have a sort of immunity to the HIV. The virus can enter the cell, but its multiplication is blocked.

Three types of cells were studied: CD⁺4 cells infected with measles virus only, cells infected with HIV only and cells co-infected with both viruses. The cell cultures were prepared for two different analyses that measured protein levels and the production of RNA, the genetic material used by the HIV virus.

RNA is an effective indicator



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An electron microscope image of the measles virus shows its characteristic structure.

of the growth of the viruses in the cells because both the measles virus and HIV are retroviruses, meaning they use RNA to transmit genetic information into their hosts' cells, rather than DNA.

It was found that in cells that were infected with the measles virus first, and then with HIV, reproduction of HIV was blocked.

Saturn's moon Titan has liquid water

By JEROME SIMONS
News-Letter Staff Writer

A research team led by Ralph Lorenz from the Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory has discovered significant evidence that an ocean may lay underneath the surface of Titan, Saturn's largest moon, according to a report in *Science*.

The researchers have ana-

lyzed data from several years of the European Cassini-Huygens mission. They found that several points on the surface had drifted over time. Those motions are caused by winds that arise in Titan's disproportionately large atmosphere.

The researchers argue that an ocean of water separates the moon's inner core and outer solid layers, allowing the continents to float around.

The scientists measured variations in the length of the day on Titan. They reasoned that if a liquid ocean were present, it would cause detectable variations in the day.

The length of day on our planet varies by only about one millisecond.

The daily shifts on Titan that were measured in the past few years,

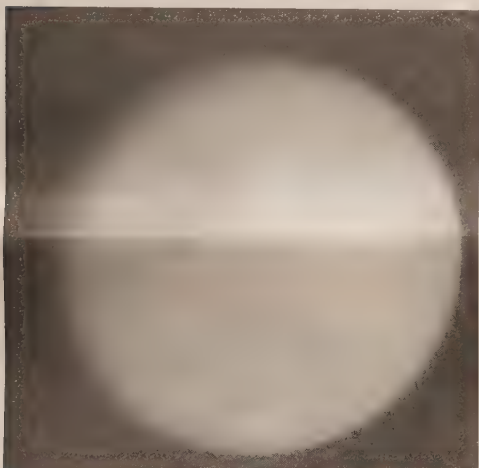
though, cannot be explained by the usual fluctuations because they are too large.

Unless the winds on Titan have grown considerably stronger, the surface would not move so fast. The only theory that explains this finding is an ocean separating the moon's core and surface.

Ralph Lorenz and his research team are still unsure what substance makes up the potential ocean. Hydrocarbons are possible and would go with the discovery of oil lakes on Titan's surface, which was reported in the January issue of the *Geophysical Research Letters*. The presence of water, though, could hint at the possible existence of life.

Titan offers a surprising number of similarities to Earth. Titan is particularly helpful here because its present condition resembles the Earth a few million years ago.

The study of its geological and volcanic activities and the cycles with which organic molecules are being manipulated could answer further questions how life developed on Earth — and could one day develop on Titan.



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A Cassini photograph shows Titan's hazy, organic atmosphere.

Scientist finds drugs for rare HIV strain

By JOCELYN WAGMAN
For The News-Letter

Researchers at Hopkins are changing the way that drug developers think about antiviral drug design and, in so doing, are making advances in the treatment of a strain of the HIV virus.

In a paper recently published in the journal *Chemical and Biological Drug Design*, a group of Hopkins biologists have introduced a "new paradigm" for the creation of effective antiviral drugs, according to Ernesto Freire, one of the authors of the paper.

"We had a very simple goal; to evaluate all the inhibitors that were being approved or under development and identify the characteristics that make some inhibitors good and some bad," Freire said.

Freire's research on HIV began around 10 years ago, but in the past two years his lab has been focusing on HIV-2, a strain of the HIV virus that infects between one and two million people worldwide.

In comparison, about 40 million people are infected with HIV-1, so all of the FDA-approved antiviral drugs on the market have been designed to target HIV-1 specifically. The relatively smaller population who have HIV-2 don't provide enough economic stimulus for drug companies to focus on HIV-2 therapies.

Because of the lack of treatments tailored to HIV-2, Freire's lab decided to investigate which existing antiviral drugs are most effective in treating HIV-2.

An inhibitor is a drug that blocks the maturation of a virus. HIV uses a protease enzyme to process its proteins and allow it

to mature. A protease inhibitor stops this process from occurring and thus prevents the virus from reproducing.

Evan Brower, a graduate student who works in Freire's lab, did the actual testing of the HIV-1 drugs. "My direct role was to take the nine clinically approved inhibitors for HIV-1 protease and see how well they worked for HIV-2 protease," Brower said.

Brower described the analysis as the most challenging aspect of the work. After obtaining his results, it was very difficult to explain them. He ended up testing more than 250 possible variables, but found that one — a property of the inhibitor called cap size — was the most "inhibitory structural parameter," meaning that it has the biggest impact in the determination of an inhibitor's success against HIV-2.

Cap size refers to specific groups of atoms positioned on the inhibitor molecule that tailor the inhibitor to its target protein. A large and flexible cap means more possible rotation of bonds within the cap, which leads to an increased ability of the inhibitor to adapt to a mutating virus. The drugs with the largest cap are, therefore the most effective in treating HIV-2.

A helpful way to understand an important aspect of drug design, Freire explained, is the "lock and key analogy," which says that if a virus is a lock, the inhibitor should be a key that fits perfectly in that lock. This view has recently been usurped, partially due to the lab's work.

"In the past, there was a dogma in drug design to make molecules that were very rigid, but a virus is able to change the lock,

and if the key is rigid, it cannot adapt to the new lock. What we need is a master key that will open all locks," Freire said.

Freire listed three basic characteristics of a good inhibitor: "potency, selectivity and adaptability."

A potent inhibitor is powerful enough to keep the virus from creating more copies of itself. A selective inhibitor is singularly focused on its target, and an adaptable inhibitor can change with the virus as it mutates, while not losing the key components that allow it to function.

Freire's paper offers new insight on adaptability. "The research confirms that inhibitors that have elements that are able to adapt to changes are the ones that lose less potency when facing mutations," Freire said.

"The virus mutates when you take drugs, but the protease cannot mutate at will because it still has to work. Instead of something that is completely rigid all over, you have only specific rigid regions that target conserved parts of the protease."

Freire added that this set of three features that stemmed from this research on HIV forms "a drug development platform" that is being used to develop drugs to treat other viruses that have no cures, like Hepatitis C and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Freire and his colleagues are proud that their findings will help patients with HIV-2 and are being applied to drug design in general. However, "there is always the frustration that despite all the research in labs all over the world, there is still no cure [for HIV]," Freire said.

Distant planet carries several molecules of life

By SAM OHMER
News-Letter Staff Writer

The chemical composition of our planet's atmosphere can tell us much about the state of our planet and the life found on it. Pollution levels, planetary events like volcanic eruptions, even the time of year leave considerable marks in the atmosphere that can be analyzed.

The same is true of other planets in our solar system. On Venus, for example, we can see the greenhouse effect in a truly run-away way.

This principle works just as well for planets outside of our solar system, and it is sometimes the only way scientists can figure out what stuff far-away bodies are made of.

Scientists from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., analyzed the atmosphere of a distant planet and found methane — the first time an organic molecule has been found outside our solar system.

Mark Swain and colleagues have been looking at a planet called HD 189733b with the Hubble telescope. It is a large, Jupiter-like planet, a gas giant, located about 63 light years from Earth.

It is also very hot, which led scientists to assume the existence of carbon monoxide, but that's not what Swain and his colleagues found.

In fact, the team has reported that there is a marked presence of methane in HD 189733b's atmosphere, which points to unidentified mechanisms in place on the planet that favor methane production.

Using near-infrared spectroscopy, which looks at the energy emissions of celestial bodies, spe-

cifically infrared energy, scientists can make inferences about the chemicals present in those bodies. In the case of HD 189733b, scientists watched as the planet passed in front of its own sun.

The light from the sun then illuminated the planet's atmosphere, sending an emitted-energy spectrum towards the Hubble telescope for Swain and colleagues to analyze.

What they have found is that the atmosphere is dominated by methane, an organic compound composed of carbon and hydrogen which is best known as "swamp gas."

In addition to a strong methane signature, the team has also found strong evidence of water in HD 189733b's atmosphere.

Then, trying to gauge the amounts of water and methane in the planet's atmosphere,

Swain and colleagues entered their data into a simulating model and found a slight discrepancy in the concentrations of water and methane they were calculating.

By adding a small amount of ammonia, a nitrogen-containing gas, they were able to more accurately explain their findings.

There is still some uncertainty, however, as there is an expectation of carbon monoxide in such a planet's atmosphere but very little observed data for the molecule's presence. The carbon monoxide spectrum is masked by methane's emission spectrum.

For sure, the team reports, the planet's atmosphere contains water and methane, and probably also ammonia, but in what amounts and if other molecules are found in significant amounts remain a mystery.



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YOUR NEWS-LETTER

This week in schadenfreude

By CARA SELICK
Your News-Letter Editor

We all have had one of those moments that completely, utterly embarrassed us, leaving our faces bright red and making us sweat at the mention of the incident for years to come. Some semi-brave souls have agreed to let the *News-Letter* anonymously exploit their past pain for the readers' present pleasure. Sit back, relax and enjoy your weekly dose of schadenfreude conveniently compiled into one article!

I was in the hospital for a concussion and broken arm among other injuries after a bad tackle during a high-school football game. I was in a lot of pain, so they pumped me full of painkillers and I was feeling a little loopy. Right around noon, when the place was full of families visiting on their lunch breaks, I somehow thought it'd be a brilliant idea to find some coffee in the cafeteria (When Harold and Kumar get high, they want White Castle; when I get high, I apparently crave coffee). The only problem: I was wearing a hospital gown. And nothing else. I was so out of it, I didn't even notice the breeze down there from the open back. Needless to say, quite a few people were amused by the view.

— Analgesic Exhibitionist

My most embarrassing moment was in second grade math class. We always used to play this game where we stood in a circle and counted off and whoever said a multiple of some number like seven (so 7, 14, 21, etc.) was out and had to sit down. I had never been one of the last people up and I was so excited to finally outlast most of the class. However, on this particular day I had to go to the bathroom really badly and if I left to go, I would be out of the game. I ended up losing control and peed my pants in front of my entire class. I got made fun of for years after that.

— 7 minus 6 = Number 1

So back in fifth grade, I used to preface a lot of my questions to

teachers with the phrase "I was just wondering, but..."

One day, I walked up to the teacher's desk while we were all working on some class assignment to ask a question, but before I could even get a word out, my teacher belatedly, "I was wondering, but..." The whole class had heard it because they were quietly trying to complete the assignment, but they cracked up once the teacher mimicked me. I felt so embarrassed at the time as I just walked back to my desk and like sat there

When I woke, I realized I had heard a loud (emphasis on loud) thud and saw that I was now looking at rows of feet stretching into the distance. Then I realized that the thud had been made by me, as I gracefully fell from the pew. I had to get back up in front of the whole church.

— Confessional Catnapper

This girl and I decided to be a little "adventurous" one night so we went out to the practice soccer field. We were having a good time when these lights flash on us! We're both butt naked and freak out.

We lie low on the ground as a Hop Cop car creeps towards us. The lights are on us for a good 10 seconds, then the car drives away. We grab our clothes and hurry back to my place, but I am tripping and stumbling because I'm laughing so

hard! But she flips out at me and screams, "Stop laughing! What if we got arrested?! I wouldn't get into med school!" Oh Hopkins pre-meds!

— Just Practicing

Freshman year of high school, I was at a shoe store with my friend, and I was trying on ridiculous shoes and making fun of them. I found some ugly pink flip flops on the floor, so I put them on and started prancing around the store, screaming, "Oh my god! These are sooo ugly. I would only wear these with pink hot pants. Ewww!" So I put them back, and all of a sudden, some woman comes over, puts her pink flip-flops back on, and walks away.

— Now she makes fun of you behind your back!

I burped in the girl's mouth during my first kiss. I haven't had a single soda since.

— Carbonated Casanova

I was on speakerphone. Period.

— Watching what she says



LAUREN SCHWARTZMAN/GRAPHICS STAFF

for a few minutes trying to compose myself.

— WonderBoy

I accidentally flashed my entire grade in high school when a window I thought I could see out but they couldn't see in turned out to not be that way. I was sent home from the trip, and everyone in the grade mentioned my breast for the following two weeks.

— See-cup

When I was little, church seemed like it went on forever, and sometimes when I could sneak it in, I'd take a little "napa-roo" by leaning my head on my shoulder. This one Sunday, however, I was extremely tired for some reason and kept dropping off to sleep. My mom, being the shining beacon of compassion that she is, told me to go sit in the front, thinking that I'd be too embarrassed to sleep in front of the pastor. Little did she know that at that age I was brave and full of courageous sleepiness and promptly stretched full out on the front pew to sleep.

Modern dance: surviving my "doom"

"I can't. I have dance."

My friends and family can tell when I'm about to spout this line. Regardless of the number of times they've heard it, they still forget that I don't have time to take part in insert fun activity that will only occur once, that I will hear about for years to come. In the end, the missed movie dates, concerts and other events are completely worth it.

I am a member of the JHU Modern Dance Company, and as I write this, we are rehearsing for our spring concert on April 5. It's scheduled on my calendar as "Doom," which occurs the week after "impending doom." It's amazing how many hours and nights and Powerbars and glasses of orange juice it takes to prepare for Doom.

After all, this is the second time I've met Doom, and you'd think we'd have a more friendly give-and-take type of relationship. Doom reminds me that joining this club was my own wonky and wonderful choice. I guess he's right.

I joined the company my freshman year, when I was given the blissful opportunity of the semester of covered grades to indulge in extra-curriculars. I was in college, and I was going to dance again, damn it.

This time, my SAT prep schedule would not conflict with my favorite activity. My mom would not have to drive me to classes and rehearsals, and I would not have to keep my hair in a bun until I got a migraine. The thought was exhilarating.

So, my roommate and I sat in the middle row of Shriver for the Freshman Dance Showcase, where I surveyed my options. I'm completely inept at any form of Bhangra or classical Indian dancing (believe me, I've tried, and usually I come off looking something like a dying chicken), so that knocked a couple groups off my list right away.

Then, the modern dancers took their turn. They performed part of Crow, a tri-partite piece inspired by the film and the music to which it was choreographed. I saw the black unitards and thought, "this is me." Well,

OK. Maybe not the unitards. But the dancing was what I saw and loved.

Now its 11:30 p.m. in Shriver — the lights are on, curtain is up and the audience is empty, save a few backpacks. Marilyn Byers, the Modern Dance Company's artistic director and founder, has made a pot of soup, and it sits stewing on a table in front of the stage.

"You're in the footlights! You can't be in the footlights! No, not like that, it's more like ... Shanna, fix them!" They run the piece again.

Before we know it, it's midnight. Some sit quietly in the audience, writing lab reports and reading for history classes, while others practice in the hallway or stretch. Those who have been onstage already labor to remove splinters from the decrepit wooden floor.

"You all only hear when I'm screaming bad things! I say, did you hear the good things? Nooo, of course you didn't, Hopkins bears!" Marilyn yells playfully to the visibly tired dancers on stage. They smile through their sleepiness.

I quickly realized long ago that this was more than a club, or an activity — it is a family. I've already spent 20 hours of rehearsal with the company this past week, and write this as I spend three more hours with them tonight.

I can tell who prefers their left foot to their right, how many steps it takes any one of the dancers to walk across the stage, how they will naturally hold themselves, and even how

quickly they breathe.

Because modern dance is so focused on ensemble, we're forced to learn these things about each other.

Right now, I know enough about Marilyn to know that we will be here until at least after 1 a.m. She's pacing across the stage in her pink flip-flops, pink wind pants and pink shirt, and explaining the quality she wants to see in the dance.

"You're carving a path in space, and I want to see your energy! Feed off of each others' energy! And when you're doing the flippy-doodles, those are energetic too. Push up with your leg." Some eyes roll. We have very few stores of energy at the moment, but we'll give it a valiant try anyway.

We run through a few more pieces before calling it quits a little after 1. I carry the giant yellow balance ball we use in a dance called Popcorn across the theater and out the front doors. The rain is falling, and I pull my hood over my head. I'm exhausted, wet and hungry, but it will all be worth it come 8 p.m. on April 5. Until then...

"I can't. I have dance."



COURTESY OF LAUREN MCGRATH
A member of Modern Dance prepares for the big show.

Cookbook aphorisms: lessons learned

By WHITNEY SHAFFER
For The News-Letter

The best thing about being off the meal plan — besides not having to eat campus food — is the opportunity to explore new recipes and culinary ideas.

I've found that learning how to feed myself is empowering, making me feel a little more independent, less like the sheltered undergrad I am.

As I'm moving away from the simpler things, like macaroni and cheese, and on to cakes, homemade soups, etc., I've started to wonder if sometimes lessons from food can be lessons for life. So, I've perused my recipes and memory for moments in cooking and baking that speak

to larger issues. Here's what I've found:

When making carrot cake, the batter simply isn't pretty. The neon orange of the carrots combines with the sugar, oil, flour and egg mix to create something like puke. However, just because the batter looks like a drunken freshman couldn't hold his 2 a.m. sandwich down doesn't mean it'll taste bad. It could very well taste great.

Lesson learned: When a situation looks bad, give it time and effort, and it can work to your advantage. Seniors take note: Life post-graduation may look messy now, but it'll turn out to be a piece of cake. I promise.

Tofu will soak up anything, so if you add too much soy sauce, you'll pay for it.

Lesson learned: Watch what you say to kids. They're sponges that can get pretty saucy. Heck, just watch what you say in public. The world is too small for rumors not to spread.

Don't confuse baking soda with baking powder. They both make cakes and muffins light, but using baking powder instead of baking soda

will make your cakes acidic and off-colored.

Lesson learned: Pay attention now, or pay the price later.

Some recipes call for soured milk. Black mushy bananas make the best banana bread. Stale bread makes great French toast.

Lesson learned: Don't automatically dismiss someone or something because of a bad impression. See if you can use it somehow before throwing it away.

Discolored meat will make you sick. So will unnaturally smelly things.

Lesson learned: Sometimes, just trust your instincts.

Grocery stores are great sources of meat. Speaking of meat, you can totally find it without having a resident hunter to your gatherer.

Lesson learned: Who needs men?

Fish tends to have a nasty smell.

Lesson learned: Houseguests, like fish, stink after three days.

Raw potatoes can fix any seasoning mess. Too much salt? Raw potatoes will soak it up. Dish too spicy? Same deal.

Lesson learned: For every mistake, there is a solution. Sometimes the solution is unorthodox, so keep looking.

Ramen noodles aren't necessarily bad for you. What's unhealthy is the sodium content of the seasoning packet. So, make your own seasoning, add some

fresh meats and veggies, and still live on the cheap.

Lesson learned: There are some skills from college that you can use in real life. Precious few, but they're there.

Vodka will make your pie crust flakier. Instead of using all water, use half water, half cold vodka. It'll leave no flavor, but provides an extra amount of moisture without making the crust tough.

Lesson learned: In rare cases, alcohol is the answer.

You can make pizza and soups in a crock-pot.

Lesson learned: Aim for versatility.

You don't have to cry while cutting onions. Use a sharp knife, keep the root end intact, and keep the exposed cuts away from you, chill the onion and you're good to go.

Lesson learned: Tears can be avoided if you have a plan.

Don't overcook the noodles. They get floppy.

Lesson learned: Guys, don't drink too much this weekend. Your girlfriends won't forgive you for anonymous hook-ups.

A few people might say that I saved the most important lesson for last, and perhaps I did. However, I hope you can find a little something new in these observations. The next time you crack open a (cook) book, I hope that you'll notice some more life lessons mixed in with the ingredients. Best self-help is a well-made meal.

YOUR racks

Compiled by David Miele

Some of my favorite rock and metal songs that I like to blast in my room (when my roommate isn't there, which, fortunately, is most of the time), or when I'm driving. They have also served me as pre-game pump up music for soccer games. If you find yourself liking one of these songs, I definitely recommend you listen some of their other songs (this is just a little taste).

"The Glass Prison," Dream Theater
Artistically beautifully ... all 13 minutes of it! The song reminds me a lot of Metallica, which is always good.

"Falling Down," Atreyu
This song got even my girlfriend dancing, and she *hates* metal, although this is by far the lightest song they have, which isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"Implements of Destruction," Chimaira
Another great 13-minute one. It has a great transition from acoustic guitars to a heavy riff and will get anyone's head banging.

"I Stand Alone," Godsmack
One of the songs that introduced me into metal. Holds a special place in my metal heart.

"My Plague," Slipknot
One of my favorite songs from one of my favorite bands. I'm absolutely in love with the catchy chorus.

"The End of Heartache," Killswitch Engage
Another amazing band that never fails to deliver a remarkable show. Once you see them live, every other show will disappoint.

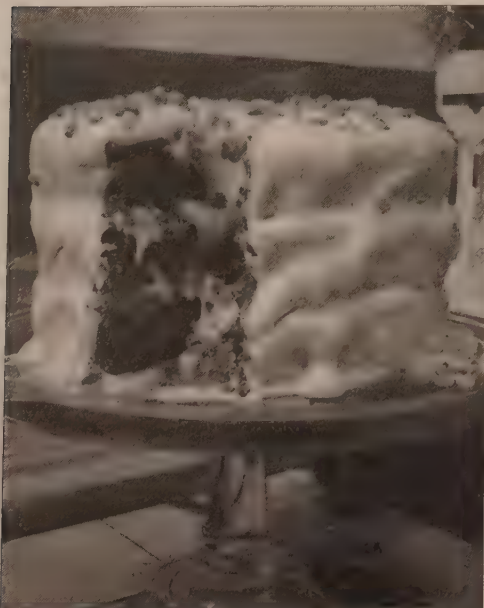
"How Can I Live," Ill Niño
Even though *Freddy vs. Jason* sucked, the soundtrack wasn't a total loss. Who would think Spanish bongos could work in a metal song?

"Master of Puppets," Metallica
Did you really think I was gonna leave out the Godfather of Metal? I could easily make the list consisting of solely their songs.

"Happy," Mudvayne
High-paced adrenaline rusher. I always listen to this song to get pumped up for soccer.

"This Calling," All that Remains
For some reason, I am never able to see them live which only makes me love them even more. The double bass from the drummer in the chorus is ridiculous.


"So Cold," Breaking Benjamin
This is a great song for people who aren't into very heavy rock or metal. It has a great balance between metal instrumentals and rock vocals. There's no screaming in this one, so those who are offended by it can probably enjoy this song much more than the others!




COURTESY OF WWW.THEGCONNECTION.COM

This carrot cake didn't look so pretty before it was finished.


CARTOONS, ETC.




Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
April showers bring May flowers and slippery Breezeway stairs. Time for some sexy shoes with traction!




Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
"Fools rush in," never made sense to me because I always thought that the early bird catches the worm.




Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
Is is presumptuous to expect a kiss on the first date? If the first date is in a frat house basement, then no, no it isn't.




Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
A good way to see if you are really sick is to go to Health and Wellness. If they say you are healthy, go to the ER immediately.




Leo: (July 23 - August 22)
Good for you! You finally got out of that terrible relationship. By the way, can I get your ex-girlfriend's number?




Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22)
Time for some spring cleaning. You can burn those old textbooks and love letters from that cheating slut.




Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22)
For the best results when baking, follow directions carefully and wash your hands before mixing by hand.




Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21)
Some people like to study in the library, some in the Hut. Me? I find CVP to be the best place to really get work done.




Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Old people don't like it when young people think they know everything. Guess what, old people, we do know everything!



Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - January 19)
Fashioned in the style of a theme park, Dollywood is the premiere attraction in Nashville, Tenn. Woohoo! Boobs!



Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18)
Self doubt is just downright negative. You have to believe in your powers as a gifted young wizard.



Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Reflection can be a cathartic process. It's how we figured out that you guys probably don't take these too seriously.

your


Horoscope

Sudoku

		8				9		6	7
2	9					6	1		
					2	4			
								1	3
	1	2	5		8	7	4		
5	7								
			9	8					
		9	4				3	2	
8	2		6				7		

Nate Cartoons

by Nate Min

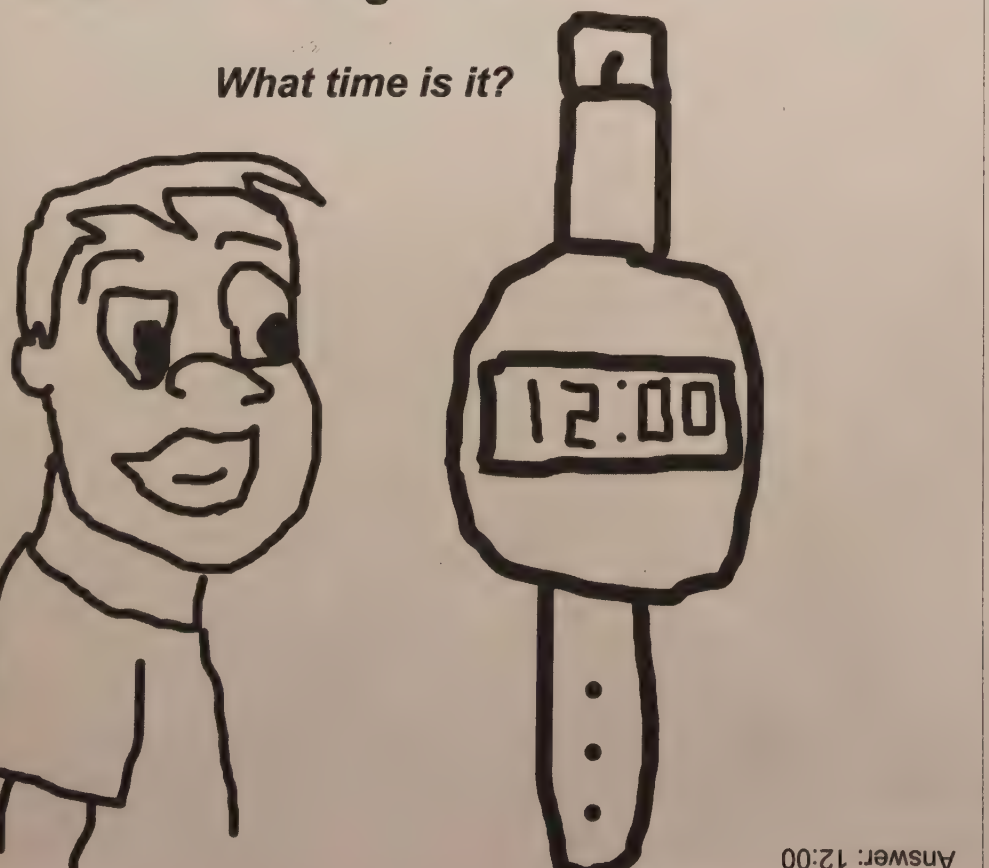


Hour 14 of the Most Redundant Call in History

Kidz Korner

Lesson 5: Telling Time


What time is it?



Answer: 12:00

Comicali

by Joe Micali



Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



A Photo in Time

by Nate Min



Were my wife's tears geniune?
...I'll never know.

The ultimate JHU confession

Jackie Jennings

Irreverent, Wacky Fun!

If you're anything like me, you're so totally addicted to www.JHUConfessions.com. I have all these dark secrets I'm burning to tell judgmental strangers and my blog doesn't afford the anonymity I initially thought it would — turns out the Internet is a "public forum" or something. Well, last night I was cruising the site and found what I think might be the ultimate confession. Reprinted here, without the author's permission, is the **ULTIMATE JHU CONFESSION!**

RE: Hey fellow confessors....

So the other day I was on B-Level studying for orgo and was thinking to myself, "Ugh, how come so many people at Hopkins are ugly and also don't want to date me? I think I'm a nice, attractive, smart girl and for some reason, whenever I go to a dingy frat basement wearing my finest Lycra dress and stilettos, no matter how blackout drunk I get, the guys I meet never want to keep dating after I throw up in their kitchen sinks! I don't get it!"

So I was thinking about all of this and I guess I was sleepy because I fell asleep on my orgo book (ew!) and woke up two days later just in time to realize I was late for my exam. I ran all the way to the test but was locked out of the room. I called my mom crying hysterically and all she could say was, "If you fail orgo and don't become a doctor, I'll tell everyone how adopted you are."

Wait, how adopted am I? I don't know, but based on her tone I assume pretty adopted. She could have found a nicer way to tell me. Needless to say I was really upset about failing orgo and also that finding out I'm apparently quite adopted. I sank to the floor outside the classroom and had a mental breakdown.

I just felt really alone and sad. Those 15 minutes was a super dark time in my life and I never want to go back. I thought about killing myself with a fire extinguisher or something else readily accessible in the hallway. Thank goodness a puppy trotted by just then!

"Puppy!" I called out, "What are you doing here?" He came over to me and started licking my hand. But just as I thought I had found my new bff, he chomped down on my hand. I'm pretty sure I have rabies now.

ANYWAYZZ, I decided to go to P.J.'s and kick back a few brewskies with some brohams, try to forget all my problems. But all these Herpa Gonah Sypha sorority sisters were there and I totally saw them whispering and looking at me. They kept turning their heads towards me and snickering. I tried to keep enjoying my tequila sunrise but couldn't ignore the cruel giggles from their circle of estrogen fueled hate.

at the table and we started flirting (as usual) and I knew that this was my chance.

So that's when I was faced with a dilemma: Is it okay to enjoy a Monroe Transfer with a guy in his dorm room while your ex may or may not be asleep in the bed 10 feet away? I decided it was and plus it might get my mind off the rest of my bad day. So we went back to Chadly's place and quietly engaged in various horrific sex acts much to my ex's displeasure.

When I woke up in Chadly's bed, I hardly knew myself. I was disgusted. I started yelling and punching myself in the face. At that moment I realized that I was actually two people and suffering from split personality disorder. I simultaneously hated and loved this other me — she was daring and had finally consummated my lust for Chadly. But she was wanton and reckless and was punching me in the face! But I was still overcome with attraction. I loved her more than I hated her and with a start, came to recognize that I was gay for myself.

But I'm Catholic and can't be gay. All this conflict built and roiled inside my heart like the festering germ of a tempest waiting to be unleashed. When I couldn't take it anymore, I finally raped myself.

This obviously bizarre coital arrangement resulted in a pregnancy that I believe is responsible for a tear in the space time continuum. I gave birth to my own mother beginning an irreversible process of human devolution that has set the human race on a course toward eventual oblivion concluding in the compressing of all matter in the universe until it becomes nothingness once more.

So I'm just posting here to say if anyone is looking for an ambiguously gendered, rabies positive, rape victim/rapist with a broken home and hot ass to get with before the world ends, e-mail me at oppsidaisy1@jhu.edu

SPORTS

A day at the races: Carolina's great tradition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1
The Carolina Cup is a steeplechase horse race held each spring at Springdale Race Course in Camden, S.C. It has been a southern tradition since its beginning in 1930, usually attracting over 75,000 attendees from across the east coast each year.

This year marked my second visit to the Cup, but the experience was just as enjoyable as the first. We made it to the parking lot at around noon to see thousands of people flooding through the green fields toward the racetrack. The pounding of horses' hooves blended with a din of drunken shouts and that ever-present twang of country music. Everywhere I looked, I saw a rolling sea of seersucker, pinks, sky-blues, girls in sundresses, floppy sun hats and oversized sunglasses. It was sheer madness in its classiest form. Having spent most of my life north of the Mason-Dixon line, I saw a culture that was completely foreign to me.

Although the Cup offers a small grandstand at the far end of the field, the scene is dominated by the masses of college students who flock to the infield and the area surrounding the track known as College Park. Students make their way to the site in the wee hours of morning to set up tents, lay out tables of food and

coolers of beer and raise the flag of their particular university, fraternity or sorority.

Of the thousands of students who make the trip to the Cup, the majority are affiliated with Greek life, an aspect of college that is taken very seriously in Southern universities. The Greek tents hold full bars, host live bands and set up horseshoe pits and sack-in-the-box tournaments, keeping the party going until the sun goes down. One thing is certain: Very few people come to the Carolina Cup for the horses.

Lovers of the track are somewhat disappointed by the fact that gambling is illegal in the state of South Carolina, a restriction that makes the Carolina Cup one of the only steeplechases that does not offer betting booths. Although gambling is not officially condoned by the Springdale Race Course, they do sell programs that list the horses and odds for each race throughout the day, giving attendees the opportunity to place as many side bets as they desire.

Living in Baltimore, I had forgotten how friendly people can be. Those who attend the Carolina Cup become a part of a community, opening their plots to whoever cares to stop by. Complete strangers treat you as if they'd known you for years, offering you food, drinks



An image from the Mildmay Novices', a particularly intense steeplechase in England. COURTESY OF [HTTP://NEWS.BBC.CO.UK](http://news.bbc.co.uk)

and good company. The family in the plot next to ours displayed full southern hospitality, feeding us all the home-cooked Carolina barbecue we could eat. I wished that I could never leave.

However, to my dismay, this year's Carolina Cup was disappointingly cut short with heavy rainfalls at around 4:30. The green fields quickly transformed into sloppy, muddy avenues as people ran to take shelter under their tents or inside their cars. As a result, many races were delayed, and although several attendees stayed as long as they could, hoping for the sun to return, the event was largely brought to an end much

earlier than usual. Cold, shivering and covered up to my knees with mud, I called it an early day and prepared for the long trip home, already eager for next year.

Fans of horse races don't have to wait too long to hit the track again, and Maryland actually hosts several races throughout the year. Baltimore is home to the Preakness, the second leg of the Triple Crown, which is held each May at Pimlico Race Course.

Having attended the race last year, I can safely say that the Preakness is a vastly different experience than the Carolina Cup. The infield is a chaotic mess, packed with some of the wildest characters one could ever hope to meet. One shouldn't expect to see the same mannerly southern gentlemen decked in shirts and ties, but instead will find a pack of wild animals, wet with sweat and caked with mud in a jungle of dust. The Carolina Cup is classy madness; Preakness is simply madness.

Maryland also offers a steeplechase event, the Marlborough Hunt Races, which will be held this Sunday in Davidsonville.

A 10-hour car ride and a weekend of insanity was enough for me; at least for now. As I returned to the rain clouds and cold drizzle of Baltimore, all I needed was a warm bed and a long nap, but as I drifted off, I couldn't get James Taylor out of my head, and I fell asleep "going to Carolina in my mind."

W. lacrosse blows out Cincinatti and Denver

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12

Three days later, the Lady Jays were back on the field, against 19th-ranked University of Denver. Just as they did against Cincinatti, Hopkins dominated the second half, holding the Pioneers to only one goal in the second half while scoring seven, giving the Jays a 13-7 win. The win marks their third in a row. Schwarzmann had another excellent game, scoring four times, as did sophomore Sam Schrum, who added another four.

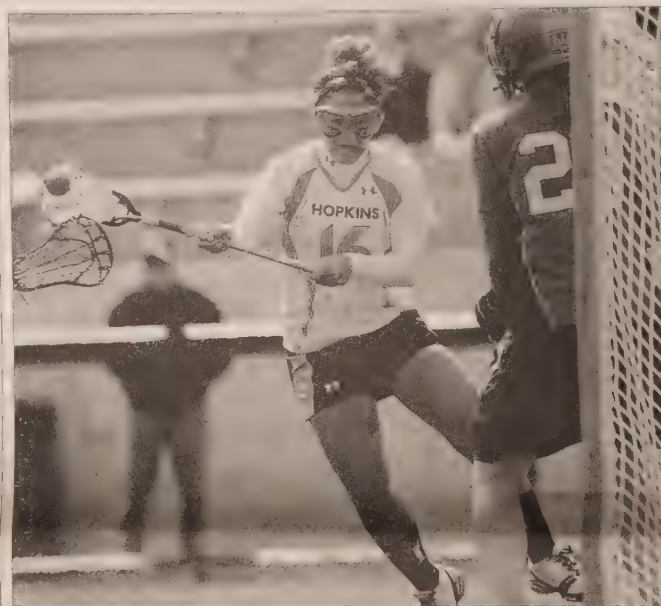
Once again the Jays wasted no time getting on the board, with Schrum scoring her first just 1:29 in on a great feed by Bathras. Schwarzmann also quickly got in the mix, giving Hopkins a 2-0 lead just 3:12 into the game. Tully Stapp scored for the Pioneers, making it a one-goal game, but Bathras came firing right back with a goal of her own just 40 seconds afterwards.

Bathras continued to roll, adding her second for the day, ninth for the year. Denver came right back though, with Kelly Carver scooping up a loose ball in front of the net and hammering it home. But in true Hopkins fashion, the Jays would not let that goal be unanswered, with Schwarzmann scoring twice more.

The rest of the half belonged to Denver, however, with the Blue Jays failing to score for the remainder of the half. Denver added four goals in the 18-minute span, tying the game at six apiece when the first half buzzer sounded. "They were really aggressive, especially in the first half," Cronin said of Denver.

The second half belonged to Hopkins, as they scored six goals, while holding the Pioneers to one. Hopkins's defense was overpowering, holding Denver scoreless for the first 21:34 of the half and forcing eight turnovers. Like always, the Jays got to business very quickly, with Houck scoring just 1:32 into the half. The Jays never looked back. Schrum was unstoppable, scoring back-to-back-to-back goals, giving Hopkins a 10-6 lead. Schwarzmann added her fourth of the day and Houck her second, and Ibello added another during the course of the 7-0 run. Denver scored one more, but was never really in the game during the second half, ending with a score of 13-7 in favor of Johns Hopkins.

The Lady Jays look to extend their winning streak to four this Sunday at Homewood Field at 1:00 p.m., as they take on 17th-ranked Vanderbilt.



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Sophomore attack Sam Schrum rips a quick crease shot past the Cincinatti goalie.

Baseball wins two against Swarthmore

By KATIE MOODY
News-Letter Staff Writer

In a historic double-header against Swarthmore, the Johns Hopkins baseball team (14-3, 4-0) swept the competition on Saturday, March 29 at Homewood. Swarthmore (7-8, 1-3) fell to the Blue Jays 12-1 in the first game, and then again by a score of 18-2 as Hopkins extended their winning streak to 10 games. The first win in the double-header marked head coach Bob Babb's 800th victory. He now has a record of 801-283-10 in 29 seasons as the Jays head coach. He is the 12th coach in Division-III history to reach the honored mark.

In the first game of the day, it was Hopkins who was on the scoreboard first when they had two runs in the first inning and three more in the second to take a solid early lead at 5-0. Both senior DH Matt Benchner and senior shortstop Jonas Fester had home runs in the first two innings, which carried the early lead. In the fifth inning, two more runs were added to the five, and Hopkins finally exploded for five more in the bottom of the sixth. Senior center fielder Rob Pietroforte swung away a three-run homer to left center right before junior first baseman Dave Garber had his signature pinch-hit home run. Garber has had a pinch-hit homer in the last four games.

On the defensive side of the ball in game one, the Blue Jays did not disappoint. Junior pitcher Chez Angeloni took it to the Garnet when he went all seven innings and carried the Jays to a no-hitter well into the top of the seventh. Swarthmore tried to rally a bit of a comeback when they broke the no-hitter streak with back-to-back doubles, but that was all they would get going. Angeloni came back strong to finish the game with nine more strikeouts and walking only one to take the Jays to the 12-1 victory.

So what was the secret to the first game success? Or, going even farther, what has been driving this team to win game after game? Sophomore catcher John Swarr gives some credit to the veteran players.

"Our seniors have really led this team this year," Swarr said.

"In the offseason they really pushed us and convinced us that this year is going to be special, not only with their hard work in the offseason, but with their play so far this season."

Swarr's team would show just how special this year is going to be with a sound victory in game two. After a short break, when the Jays and Garnet re-took the field, Hopkins had no intention of letting up at all. The Jays continued their offensive slaughter in the bottom of the second inning when they put seven up on the

pitcher Brian Duddie earned the game two "W" after permitting only two runs in six innings and striking out four.

Following the spectacular double header against Swarthmore, Youchak was named the Centennial Conference Player of the week, making him the third-straight Blue Jay to win the honor. Youchak started his week with a 3-for-3 performance in the Centennial opener against McDaniel, and in the doubleheader against Swarthmore, he was a combined 2-for-6 with three runs scored and three RBIs. Last week, he hit .583 in the four games, and he is a perfect 6-for-6 in stolen base attempts.

As a whole, the team is having an amazing season so far, statistically. They have not only outscored its opponents 63-6 last week, but they have also out scored its opponents 137-41 in their 10-game streak. The Jays are also on a record-breaking pace for bases stolen. As a team they are 52-for-62 in attempts this year, and the team is led by Pietroforte, who is 14-for-14.

Looking ahead for the games to come, one almost has to wonder if this team will break the awesome momentum they have going. Does the team look a few weeks ahead to get ready for a tough rival down the road? Swarr says no.

"We have a message board in the locker room that reminds us to take things one game at a time. It's difficult not to look forward to the big games on the schedule, but each day we have to focus on the task at hand," he said. "Any team can beat another given the right circumstances."

Those circumstances will be hard to have against the Blue Jays. The next couple games on the schedule have been postponed due to bad weather, but that doesn't matter in terms of the momentum.

"We are going out with the same mindset as we do every game," Swarr said. "We just want to keep this roll going as we get deeper into our league schedule."

After they add to the depth of that schedule on April 2 against Washington College, the Jays travel to Washington, D.C. to face Catholic on Thursday, April 3.



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The Hopkins team turns for a double-play in Saturday's historic game.

scoreboard. After sending 11 men on base, the inning finally ended, and Swarthmore went swinging for two runs in the top of the third to make it an 8-2 game. The Jays would get those back and more soon enough, when they scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth to make it 12-2. One of the highlights of the fifth was a two-RBI double from sophomore right fielder Brian Youchak.

Prior to Saturday's game, the most runs Hopkins had scored in a game this season was 17, when they played McDaniel the day before. In the bottom of the eighth, the Jays would add six more runs, making it 18, breaking their own record. Swarr had an RBI double that scored two of the six in the inning, while fellow sophomore right-fielder Brendan Walsh batted his second homerun of the year. Another noted offensive play of the inning was when junior Dan Merzel hit a successful sacrifice fly in the inning.

Defensively, the Jays were right on the mark, just as they were in the first game of the day. Senior

Nationally ranked tennis racks up another win

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12
a total of 11 match wins in singles play in their last four events and a winning percentage of .786.

"It is nerve-racking to know that the rest of your team is counting on you," freshman Casey Blythe said. "But as the season progresses, I am dealing with the nerves better."

The men demonstrated their prowess when five players each finished with at least one Golden Set last Wednesday at McDaniel College, and the occurrence repeated itself against the Mules. Blythe and sophomores Dan Myers and David Maldow were the underclassmen who were in that elite group.

"In the heat of the season, age really doesn't matter, said Maldow, who is heralded as one of the top five players in the country. "I'm glad to have contributed up to this point. It is fun to have accomplished what I have with two years of eligibility remaining."

Though the team does have a designated captain, the Jays do not miss a beat when it comes to leadership. Senior Joe Vasoon-tara has taken Blythe under his wing, and the two have united to become the number-one ranked doubles combination in the region.

"I feel Joe and I have the best chemistry on the court. We really compliment each other well," Blythe said.

The pairing of Maldow and freshman Andrew Wang has also been an implacable force in doubles match-ups. The two have only lost one match in the six times they have been on the same side of the net.

"There are many factors that attribute to our success," Wang said. "We both compete with high intensity and our desire to win brings out the best tennis in both of us."

"Andrew and I played a lot of matches together in the fall," Maldow said. "We are a fast team

and try to use that to our advantage. Andrew has an aggressive game with big groundstrokes while I am more steady and willing to play long matches."

For the time being, the existing men's and women's pairs can look forward to not being broken up for the purposes of spreading out the talent or changing up a group of slumping players.

"I believe that the teams need to play together as much as possible," Willenborg said.

The team admits that there's still work to be done before they are in shape for the national tournament in May but are confident that they will all be ready.

"I can speak for the whole team when I say we won't be happy with anything less than a trip to the Elite Eight, and hopefully the Final Four," Maldow said.

The men will take on the Ursinus Golden Bears this Saturday, while the girls' team will travel to Haverford for matches on the same day.



CONOR KEVI/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Freshman tennis player Andrew Wang reaches for a nice shot. Wang and Maldow look to be a deadly force this spring season.

Track team springs into new season with speed

By MIKE YUAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

The men's and women's track and field teams opened up their outdoor seasons this past weekend with split-squad action that divided the team in three. On Friday and Saturday, four distance runners competed at the Raleigh Relays hosted by N.C. State.

On Saturday, the rest of the team split in two, with half the team competing at the Terrapin Invitational hosted by the University of Maryland and the other half traveling just up the road to race at the Goucher College Classic. The weekend proved to be a true test as the Jays went up against some tough Division-I competition.

The Hopkins contingent who represented the Jays in North Carolina included senior Patrick Brandon, sophomores Graham Belton and David Sigmon and junior Emma Hiza. Brandon and Hiza both competed in the 10,000 meter run.

Brandon, the school record-holder in the event, posted a time of 32:16.99 to finish 19th in the event, while Hiza took 10th place, completing the 25-lap race in 41:01.36. In the 5,000 meter run, Belton crossed the line in 15:57.57, while Sigmon finished the race in 16:12.60, placing them fifth and 14th respectively in the heat.

The two came back on Saturday for the 1,500, in which Belton's time of 4:13.54 earned him 40th place. Sigmon wasn't too far behind, finishing 52nd with a time of 4:20.31.

Saturday's action in College Park saw the return of freshman Steve Tobochnik, who was sidelined all of the indoor season due to illness. Tobochnik, who was one of the top finishers for the Jays in the cross country season, showed no signs of rust as he finished fourth in the 5,000 meter run, just shy of the freshman record held by Belton.

"It felt good to finally get out there and race again," Tobochnik said. "It was a good first race back, and [assistant coach] Dave [Berdan] said it was a good place to start from. I feel like I can improve on my time in the next few races."

Senior Tristan Thomas led the way for the Jays on the sprinting side, finishing seventh in the 100 meter dash after placing fourth in the preliminaries. His final time was 11.24 seconds, while his time out of the preliminaries was 10.99 seconds.

Thomas also had a strong showing to help the 4x100-meter relay team of himself, senior Chris Cottrell, and sophomores James Walker and Pierre Hage. The group earned a fourth-place finish with a time of 43.87.

Sophomore Noah Jampol posted a time of 4:10.40 in the 1500 meter run, earning the 20th place spot.

"It felt good," said Jampol on his performance. "It's still early, and I just wanted to see what kind of shape I was in, so I was pretty happy with what I ran, given the cold and wind."

In the field, junior Adam Waddell continued his strong showing from the indoor season, securing a second place finish in the pole vault with a final vault of 4.57 meters. Junior Peter Li's 13.93 meter throw in the shot put and 41.41 meter throw in the discus were good for tenth and seventh place in those events.

On the women's side, the Jays delivered strong performances from juniors Paula Osborn and Jordan Ireton, as well as freshman Anita Mikkilineni.

Osborn had a strong showing in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes, putting up times of 12.86 and 26.34, good for 15th and 16th place.

Ireton finished in 11th place in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:21.86. Mikkilineni competed in the 100 and 400 meter hurdles, finishing in 16.55 and 1:09.75 to take 15th and 12th place in the events.

All three came back in the 4x100 meter relay to join senior Jessica Reeves in running a time of 51.62, good for seventh place. In the field, senior Becky Lossing tied for third in the high jump with a leap of 1.52 meters. Fellow senior Chantel Priolo took seventh in the javelin throw with a toss of 32.85m.

On the distance side, the Jays had the 25th and 28th place finishes in the 1500 meter run, with junior Rachel Hogen running 5:00.73 and sophomore Mira Patel running 5:03.72. Freshmen Christina Valerio and Megan Brower finished 16th and 19th in the 5000 meter run, with times of 19:43.48 and 20:10.25.

At Goucher, the men were led by strong performances out of freshmen Derek Cheng and Kenny Seidl, and sophomore Chris De Laigelis. Cheng took first in the 3000 meter run in a time of 9:21.25. Seidl earned fifth place finishes in both the 100 and 200 meter dash, running times of 11.69 and 23.67.

De Laigelis's time of 52.78 earned him a second place finish in the 400 meter dash, while his 24.09 in the 200 meter dash was good for sixth place.

On the women's side, senior Kelly Gonzalez took fifth place in the 800 meter run, running a 2:33.28. Senior Jess Chin was the top finisher in the 1500 meter run, running 5:16.72 and finishing in ninth place.

Freshman Sharon Green and senior Allyson Seger both earned second place finishes. Green took second in the 10,000 meter run with her time of 44:51.11, and Seger ran 13:33.14 in the 3000 meter steeplechase.

"Last year, I ran in New York Road Runners races that were much farther distances than high school track meets for fun," said Green. "I couldn't wait to run the 10,000 in college. After the race, I was just exhausted from racing for nearly 45 minutes. I'm looking forward to running it again!"

Both the men and women will continue competition this Saturday as they travel to Allentown, Penn. to compete in the Muhlenberg Invitational.

Men's lax falls to UNC for fourth straight loss

By ERIC GOODWIN
News-Letter Staff Writer

The men's lacrosse team was looking to snap out of a funk in which it had lost three consecutive overtime games. However, the potent offense of the North Carolina Tar Heels proved to be too much for Hopkins, as the Blue Jays fell 13-8 at Homewood field on Saturday.

For eighth-ranked Hopkins (3-4), this game was an opportunity to spark the team as it continues to play deeper into its tough schedule. The ninth-ranked Tar Heels (7-2) had not won at Homewood Field in six tries since 1994 but defeated Hopkins in a 13-10 nail-biter last season at Chapel Hill.

UNC took a quick lead just 35 seconds into the first quarter on an unassisted goal by junior Ben Hunt, who followed that up just over two minutes later with another unassisted score, putting the Blue Jays in a 2-0 hole.

The lead doubled by the end of the first quarter as the Tar Heels got two more goals, one from Cryder DiPietro with 3:28 left in the quarter, and one from Nick Tintle at the 2:42 mark. Hopkins, despite outshooting North Carolina 11-7, failed to score in the first quarter for the first time this season.

"Not being able to score until the second quarter was very frustrating," senior co-captain Michael Doneger said. "We were able to get some good offensive possessions but our shots just weren't falling."

Hopkins stepped up the intensity on defense at the beginning of the second quarter but had to grind it out for nearly ten more minutes before finally getting on the scoreboard when senior co-captain Paul Rabil took it himself and rifled a shot past UNC goalie Grant Zimmerman, making the score 4-1. The Tar Heels would answer three minutes later with a fast break goal of its own, bringing the lead back to four before halftime.

The third quarter was a make-or-break quarter for the Blue Jays. Unfortunately, the Tar Heels would not allow them to get back in the game.

Hopkins did manage to score two of the first three goals of the third quarter, both by Doneger, with one goal from UNC attack Gavin Petracca, making the score 6-3.

But things took a turn for

the worse as UNC reeled off five goals in a six-minute span, including two by Sean Delaney and one extra-man goal. Hopkins tried everything and anything to stop the UNC surge, including switching from goalie Michael Gvozden to Trey Sheain at one point. Sheain, who is a graduate student and Baltimore native, spent his undergraduate years at North Carolina and was a goalie on their lacrosse team.

Before the game, the idea of playing against old friends who I had lived with and played with for years was a little strange at first," Sheain said. "But once I got on the field, all of that disappeared and I was able to focus on doing what our defense needed to do."

Aside from Doneger's two goals, Hopkins did not answer the run by UNC before the horn sounded and at the end of three quarters the score was 11-3.

Facing an eight-goal deficit, and with the season high crowd of 4,250 beginning to empty, there was more than a sense of urgency, as the Blue Jays were in danger of losing for a fourth consecutive weekend.

Hopkins came out shooting in the fourth quarter. Stephen Peyser scored on an unassisted drive from the top of the box 42 seconds into the quarter. This was followed a mere eight seconds later by sophomore Dave Spaulding's goal, the first goal and point of his career, on an assist from freshman Mark Goodrich, which was the first point of his career.

But UNC bounced right back, scoring half a minute later as DiPietro found Michael Burns wide open in front of the net. Rabil answered five minutes later with his 12th goal of the year on an assist by freshman Kyle Wharton. But Burns would score again minutes later, giving the



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Junior midfielder Brian Christopher holds off the Tar Heels' defense. UNC let eight Hopkins goals slip by.

Tar Heels 13 goals for the game. While Blue Jays forward and leading scorer Kevin Huntley later scored two goals in the final two minutes as Hopkins began to use its reserve players, these were only sufficient enough to cut the final margin to five goals.

"I think every defense that plays us comes out with a very motivated mentality. We play against the toughest defense in the country every week," Peyser said.

On paper, Hopkins won the statistical battle in many categories, outshooting UNC 40-30, picking up 30 ground balls compared to 27 for the Tar Heels, and winning 15 out of 24 face-offs. But two key categories which UNC dominated were saves (14-8) and turnovers (16-9).

Sloppy play hindered the Blue Jays throughout the game, as the 16 team turnovers were the most since the opening game versus Albany. Hopkins also could not figure out how to get the ball past Zimmerman, who had 14 saves, as UNC held the opposition to eight goals or fewer for the sixth time in nine games.

"This was a very disappointing loss," Doneger said. "We happened to out-shoot and out-groundball UNC and still lost the game by a significant margin. These two stats prove that the effort is there but the execution

simply was not."

Through seven games, the Blue Jays have already matched the loss total from last season.

That said, last year's team was 4-4 through eight games before reeling off nine straight wins en route to the championship. This was also the first time this season that the Blue Jays had lost a game by margin of more than one goal. As a result, many reserve players (some of whom had not seen any game action this year) got a chance to play.

"[Coach Pietramala] always preaches that everyone must prepare as though they are the starter," said Sheain, who was playing in his first game of the season. "As in any game that we play, I was ready to step in and help our defense get stops," Peyser said.

Next weekend the Blue Jays travel to Durham, N.C. to take on second-ranked Duke Blue Devils in a highly anticipated rematch of last year's national championship game, which Hopkins won 12-11.

Although the four-game losing streak has been tough, the Jays are certainly not in panic mode.

Doneger said, "There is no time to sulk in Division-I lacrosse. Anyone can beat anyone on any given day. Our focus is on Saturday's game at Duke and that's all we care about right now."

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK BOB BABB, MEN'S BASEBALL COACH

Babb's extraordinary baseball benchmark

By MIKE SUMNER
News-Letter Staff Writer

Every week, the *News-Letter* highlights a player who has had an outstanding performance, with the honorary title of Athlete of the Week. However, the winner this week is baseball head coach Robert Babb.

When people think about Johns Hopkins Athletics, they think of our lacrosse program. Every week, students pile into the stadium to watch the Blue Jay lacrosse teams take on various Division-I opponents. This weekend, the men's team tied their longest losing streak ever in front of a record-breaking crowd.

However, a very different record was being set just next door. While not drawing nearly the same amount of fans, the Hopkins baseball team has made a name for themselves in DIII. While Coach Rob Babb doesn't have the fame or the connections that Pietramala has — Patriots Coach Bill Belichick was seen once again strolling the sidelines this weekend — Babb has found himself in extraordinary company.

In the shadow of the lacrosse program, Coach Babb has amassed incredible numbers for himself in his 29 years in the Hopkins dugout. He holds a career record of 801-283-10, a .735 winning percentage — the 29th best in NCAA baseball history.

He is also the eighth-winningest coach among active



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

coaches. Also during those 29 years, he has captured 10 Middle Atlantic Conference Southeast League Titles, eight Centennial Conference championships, seven University Athletic Association titles, and 13 NCAA Division-III Tournament appearances.

This weekend, with his team in the midst of a 10-game winning streak, Babb won the 800th game of his illustrious coaching career in dramatic fashion. He came into Saturday afternoon on 799. He knew it, his team knew it, the large crowd of fans knew it.

However, the important thing

for the team to do was stay focused. He tried to think as little as he could about the record and concentrate on the game. Coach Babb didn't want this number to define their performance.

"To me, it's all about the players. Last year we were a pitch or two away from the Division-III World Series," Babb said. "This year, with the talent in every one of these players, we have a real chance to go the distance."

As it turned out, their coach's accomplishments helped elevate the team's performance. They felt it was a much bigger deal than the coach. Apparently many of

them even grew mustaches as a small nod to their coach.

Coach Babb has defined Hopkins baseball. Under his coaching, players have prospered into top tier athletes that have brought Johns Hopkins Baseball to the top of the conference again and again. While Babb now has over 800 wins under his belt, this will not be the last record he aims to break.

This season, the baseball team looks as strong as it has ever looked, dominating teams up and down the division, getting better and better with each game. Under Coach Babb, they show no signs of slowing down.

Amidst all their success, we take this weekend to honor the man responsible for this, by naming Coach Babb our *News-Letter* Athlete of the Week. What's next? What lofty aspirations does Coach Babb look forward to? "802," was all he would say on the subject.

"Right now, I have 801 victories, but what's important is to take everything one game at a time."

Good luck, Coach. We know 802 will come just as naturally. We'll be waiting for 900. At this rate, you'll make it there in no time.



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In their first outdoor meet, both track teams faced some Division-I competition.

SPORTS

CHECK THIS OUT!

In a matchup that brought back memories of Rocky III, welterweight boxing champion Floyd Mayweather took on WWF wrestler Big Show. The video can be found on YouTube under "Floyd Mayweather vs. Big Show Wrestlemania."

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

M. and W. crew: JHU Invitational all day

SUNDAY

W. lacrosse vs. Vanderbilt 1 p.m.

W. lax tames the Bearcats in 19-3 slaughter

By MIKE PORAMBO
News-Letter Staff Writer

In a clearly lopsided game, the 15th-ranked women's lacrosse team defeated the Cincinnati Bearcats, cruising to a 19-3 win. Sophomore Paige Ibello led all scorers with a career-high five goals. Ten different Blue Jays were able to find the back of the net.

From the get-go, the Lady Jays were all business. Just 34 seconds into the game, senior Lauren Schwarzmann scored her first goal of the day on a well-placed pass from sophomore Brett Bathras. It looked as though Cincinnati would be able to hang with Hopkins, tying the game at one apiece 4:23 into the game. This, however, was not the case. Senior Katie Dumais took back the lead quickly, and Schwarzmann added her second off a nice dish by senior Kirby Houck.

Cincinnati scored to make it a one-goal game, but that would be as close as the game would get. Sophomore Kim Dubansky quickly scored on a well-positioned bounce shot, giving Hopkins a 4-2 lead, igniting an abso-



Sophomore midfielder Paige Ibello runs past a defender to scoop up a loose ground ball. Ibello led in scoring in Saturday's games.

lutely dominating 9-0 run that did not end until halftime. Of the run, Ibello scored four, Bathras added two more and senior Kadie Stamper and freshman

Brianna Cronin each added one more, going into halftime with a very comfortable 12-2 lead.

The second half was the same story. With Cincinnati scoring the

first goal of the half, the Jays proceeded to score every other, closing the game on a 6-0 run. Dubansky scored three more times during that run, giving her a career-high four goals. Six different Blue Jays scored multiple goals: Ibello, Schwarzman, Dubansky, Houck, Bathras and sophomore Danielle Ensley.

Sophomore goalie Lizzie O'Ferrall played for 22:44, finishing with two saves, earning her the win. Juniors Amelia Harris and Jess Buicko also saw time in net, as did freshman Julianne Wisner.

"It was great that all four goalies got to play, for the first time this season," Wisner said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10

Nationally ranked tennis adds to winning streak

By ALEX IP
News-Letter Staff Writer

If you haven't caught a glimpse of the nationally ranked men's and women's tennis teams on the courts so far this spring, then you've surely missed some exceptional performances.

The Lady Jays have been on a six-event winning streak dating back to March 13 with their latest win, an 8-1 victory against Franklin & Marshall.

The men's team suffered a hard-fought 5-4 loss at Washington & Lee on Sunday but dominated with a 9-0 win at home against the Muhlenberg Mules only one day prior.

"[We're] in good position to win the conference championship again this year," men's and women's team coach Chuck Wilenberg said. "We have lost a few

5-4 decisions to some of the best teams in the country. Hopefully, we'll get another shot at these teams at the NCAAAs."

Both squads have been greatly supported by a dynamic underclassman contingent.

Freshmen Abby Dwyer and Yasmine Elamir have each delivered undefeated performances on the girls' recent three-event homestand, while sophomore Anita Bhamidipati is one of a duo that has not lost in doubles play this year.

The women's team is ranked 14th in the region and fifth nationally.

Not to be outdone, the men have volleyed and served their way to a third regional and 15th national seeding for their team. The younger members of the unit have helped to compile

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10



Nationally-ranked sophomore David Maldow stretches for a low backhand shot.

INSIDE

Men's Lacrosse: Four Straight

The Blue Jays' previous three games were all nail-biters. However, this disappointing loss against University of North Carolina was an uphill battle from the start. **Page B11.**

Athlete of the Week: Coach Bob Babb

Baseball head coach Bob Babb earned his 800th win this weekend as the Blue Jays plowed through Swarthmore in a long double-header at Homewood. **Page B11.**

Out of Left Field: Carolina Cup

Continued from B1, sports editor Demian Kendall recounts his experience at the Carolina Cup, an annual traditional day-long steeplechase horse race in Camden, S.C. **Page B10.**

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City report: Gilman should be closed

Aging home for the humanities deemed "structurally unsound"

By BRET MICHAELS
City Hall Correspondent

Baltimore City building inspectors will issue a report next week condemning the aging Gilman Hall as "structurally unsound" and closing it off to the public, according to administration sources familiar with the report. The city will also ask the University to permanently raze the building and construct something safer in its place.

Reached for comment Wednesday night, city officials acknowledged that they would be issuing a report on the state of the ongoing Gilman renovation project, but declined to discuss its contents. University officials with knowledge of the situation said city engineers had found Gilman Hall in violation of city health codes and "unfit for human occupancy." The University has agreed to close Gilman off to everyone except students, who they said could still use the building for educational purposes.

"The engineers we have employed have suspected for some time that this would happen," said one University official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the report was not yet finalized. "We just hoped the city



Jasper Adams tapes off the entrance to Gilman Hall, which was deemed unsuitable for the public. Students will still use it.

would hold off until the summer, when there would be minimal student presence on campus and in the building."

According to University officials, the ongoing renovation of Gilman Hall had been delayed several times due to "serious concerns" expressed by city officials about the safety of the building. Administrators considered closing off access to faculty, students

and staff several times, but ultimately decided that moving faculty members to the Dell House on N. Charles St. — where most humanities professors now have their offices — was a satisfactory solution.

"We were close to shutting down Gilman for good until we were able to move the faculty to the Dell House," said a second member of the administration

familiar with the decision. "That made us feel more comfortable about keeping the building open for students."

University President William Brody denied that the building was unsafe for students, and said the report being authored by the city was simply the latest in a series of precautions to ensure that the building's occupants were

CONTINUED ON PAGE A2

Lethal bout of laziness mistaken for cool apathy

By JACKIE JENNINGS
College Life Correspondent

When sophomore Mike Michaelson was found dead in his dorm Sunday evening from natural causes, it came as a mild surprise to everyone who knew the 19 year old.

"I knew he was really indifferent to pretty much everything but that was part of the reason I liked him so much," said Michaelson's freshman year roommate sophomore Jeff Ball. "He was just a really cool guy."

Michaelson was found in his McCoy Hall residence just before 7pm by self-described "pseudo-girlfriend" sophomore Laney Harrison. Harrison found Michaelson propped in his bright orange bean bag chair surrounded by Bugles and empty bottles of Zazz. An unfinished game of MarioKart played on the television.

Harrison and Michaelson had been casually "together" for over 7 months. When asked to clarify their relationship Harrison replied, "I don't know...it's like...I wanted to be together but...I don't think he really cared. But he was just so cool I was willing to deal."

Michaelson was undecided as to a major and rarely participated in campus activities.

Friend Gunter Hall remembers Michaelson as someone who, "always had something pretty funny to say when people would talk about rushing frats or being in a club or anything. He just thought it was all so gay. I mean, you know, dumb."

It is this dedicated apathy that seems to have been the root of Michaelson's demise. Baltimore's Medical Examiner Dr. Ted Yatsalakes was at first perplexed by

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One-thousandth terabyte of porn downloaded on DC++

By ADAR EISENBRUCH
Connoisseur of Naked People

On March 31st, DC++ marked the occasion of having facilitated the download of one thousand terabytes of filthy, glorious porn. Direct Connect, Inc., the company that developed DC++, celebrated at their Silicon Valley headquarters with champagne, a catered party, and a live performance of a wild lesbian sleepover.

Michael Patrizio, Professor of Computer Science at The Johns Hopkins University, put the accomplishment into perspective: "This really is remarkable, what this program has managed to achieve. I don't think many people understand just how much sweet fucking porn we're talking about here. One thousand terabytes. That's a one followed by fifteen zeros. I estimate that such a quantity of data represents enough cumshots to blanket the Earth in splooge several times over."

The president and founder of Direct Connect, Jeremy Alfieri, had conflicted feelings on the occasion. "You know, this isn't really what we created the program for. We envisioned it as being a tool for academics and researchers to share information with each other. We hoped that maybe DC++ could help in the fight against cancer or something like that," stated Alfieri. "But since that never really caught on, I guess it's cool that we helped a whole lot of people watch other people lick each other's smoothly waxed assholes."

The importance of DC++ to college students, especially males, cannot be underestimated. "Oh man," said lonely masturbator Kempton Bremer, "DC++ is the best. I've usually got about four movies downloading at any one time. I'm into anal, orgies, young-looking girls, gonzo, young-looking girls, all of it. Hopefully DC++ will just keep growing and growing, getting bigger and bigger, more and more stiff, until its pulsing tip erupts into a quivering fountain of free porn for all."

Martin Sheen named Univ. president

By Danny Con-cannon
Presidential Correspondent

Martin Sheen, the Hollywood actor and political activist, will replace William Brody as the fourteenth president of Hopkins early next year, according to several sources in the University administration.

The formal announcement, which is expected early next week, brings to a rapid close the Board of Trustees' search for the next president of the University, which began just one week ago.

"Sheen was an obvious choice from the beginning," explained Pamela Flaherty, chair of the Board of Trustees and a member of the presidential search committee tasked with finding a replacement for Brody.

"He has seven years of experience playing the President of the United States on national television, so we are completely confident that he can be an actual president of a university, if not the whole country."

Sheen is best known for his



Martin Sheen, seen here with Flaherty and Brody, has been selected as the next JHU president.

portrayal of Jed Bartlet, the idealistic, brilliant and sometimes cantankerous president on NBC's *The West Wing*. During its seven-season run, Sheen faced enemies foreign and domestic, including a congressional censure and a brutal genocide in Equatorial Kudu, a country somewhere in Africa.

"I am honored to be cast in the role of president once again," Sheen said in a telephone interview from his office in Hollywood, where he is working on a sitcom adaptation of Francis Ford Coppola's classic 1979 Vietnam War movie, *Apocalypse Now*, in which Sheen starred. "I was seriously looking for an acting job after *The West Wing* ended," he added.

Flaherty's March 24 email to the students and faculty of Hopkins, which announced the creation of the presidential search committee, said they were looking for "someone with the vision and integrity to lead the University over the next decade or more. Oh yeah: having a Nobel Prize is a big plus with us."

Although Sheen doesn't have any Nobels to his credit, his character, Bartlet, won the Nobel Prize in Economics for his work on macroeconomics in developing countries. Sheen himself has gone back to school since filming of *The West Wing* ended in 2006, working on his undergraduate

CONTINUED ON PAGE A7



John Astin and Brian Dennehy had lunch in 1972. Dennehy had a Caesar salad.

John Astin still talking about lunch with Brian Dennehy

Students baffled at professor's ability to remember tiniest details of anecdote

By ADAR EISENBRUCH
Old-timers Correspondent

According to student reports, Professor of Acting John Astin is still telling a story of a noontime meal he shared with moderately-acclaimed actor Brian Dennehy in 1972. Astin began telling the story during class on Tuesday, in response to a student's question about when the final exam would be, and is still telling the story as of press time.

As he began the story, students were initially amazed at Astin's ability to remember minute details that most people don't even notice. "He told us that Brian Dennehy laid his napkin across his lap with his left hand. How did he remember that? Why did he remember that?" recounted an astonished junior Eric Morse.

As the story went on, however, students became less impressed with the elderly Astin's memory, and more concerned that he would not be finished telling his slightly-boring story by the time class was scheduled to be over. To their horror, this fear came very, very true. "He just kept talking and talking," according to Morse, "and four o'clock came and went, and he didn't even seem to notice. All the students kept looking at each other, like 'What the hell are we going to do?' But Astin just kept chuggin', telling us that the mozzarella sticks at the restaurant weren't that good because they used panko bread crumbs instead of regular bread crumbs...It was crazy."

"We couldn't all get up and leave, because that would have been way too awkward," explained Morse. The desperate students devised a plan to leave and return in shifts, so that they could each at-

tend to such necessities as eating and attending other classes, without Professor Astin perceiving a conspicuous lack of audience.

As nightfall approached on Tuesday, many of the students got increasingly nervous, as Astin showed no sign of slowing down. "I looked out the window of the [Merrick] Barn, and it was dark outside, but John [Astin] was still telling us how Brian Dennehy sent a Caesar salad back because it had too many anchovies" said Morse.

Perhaps against several University regulations, Professor Astin's students were forced to sleep in their classroom that Tuesday night, as well as the following Wednesday night. "It was weird," stated Morse, "falling asleep to the sound of him saying that his water glass had still been warm from the dishwasher, and waking up to him saying that Brian Dennehy had declined freshly cracked black pepper in his minestrone soup...I don't think he slept, though" continued Morse, "I think he kept talking the entire time."

"It was weird," said sophomore Scott Levitz, "The man did not eat. He did not drink. He did not sleep. I don't even think he stopped to pee...He's just been talking for three days straight. Personally, I don't think he's human. I think Professor Astin is some sort of story-telling robot."

Other students had similarly mixed reactions. "I don't know," said Freshman Dennis Dennehy, "Brian Dennehy is my uncle, so I texted him about this on Wednesday, and he texted back saying that he'd never met John Astin ... So that's weird."

"I'm pissed!" vented Senior Paul Chuang. "I still don't know when that final is."

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- Will her heart go on? Our reviews check out Titanic ... spoiler alert! B3



SPURTS

- You've seen him running to class, even when he's on time. "The Flash" is our Athlete of the Week, B10.



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DO YOU REALLY CARE WHAT SECTION THIS IS?

Bill Nye out, Jimmy's Chicken Shack in for grad speaker

By VINCENT HAJJAR
CoolZone® Correspondent

Devastating news rang late Monday in the CoolZone®, as the senior class council along with several Hopkins officials struggled to replace Bill Nye as the 2008 Commencement Speaker. Earlier in the day, it was reported via a CI that Bill Nye had backed out of the deal because, as our CI heard, he “made too many sandwiches.” It was later reported that Bill Nye comes Washington D.C. where sandwiches is colloquial for bad decisions.

After coming up with a list of potential highly-recognizable speakers around 1:07 AM, senior class council president of the world, Joseph Micali, ripped up and threw out the list, saying “Kofi Annon. More like Coffee Anonymous, cause you all need to wake up, people!” Hopkins officials then giggled, but immediately received threatening text messages from student council members, including “Ur gr8..... totes not!” and “Quit putting your foot between my legs”. It was later revealed that the latter text was meant for Joseph Micali. The man thinks just because he's senior class council president of the world, he can do whatever he wants.

With the night dwindling down into morning, senior class council members called upon the Justice League of Hopkins for help. Without any hesitation, both the Spring Fair friends and the HOP homies sprung into action. After breaching the CoolZone®, Spring Fair and the HOP combined forces to take the form of the Megazord. It was really a sight to behold, for a 6-year old.

After several cups of Kofi... err,



COURTESY OF PHOTOSHOP

Jimmy's Chicken Shack will head this years commencement ceremony.

I mean coffee, Spring Fair and the HOP started doing what they do best; making sandwiches, really terrible, terrible sandwiches. I'm speaking colloquially, of course. Spring Fair grand dragon, Ring Shair stood up and rejoiced, “I think I've got it.” He began going

over all the sandwiches Hopkins groups have made this semester (Bone-Thugs, Reel Big Fish, Everclear, picking up that drunk girl from Fiji), and realized there was only one logical conclusion that could be made. Jimmie's Chicken Shack needed to rock the sheeet

out of the commencement ceremony.

“Jimmie's Chicken Shack was supposed to headline last year at the Spring Fair Totes Awesome Beach Stage a.k.a. the stage that always gets rained out because it always rains during Spring Fair and you'd think we finally learned our lesson but maybe the Bone-Thugs can use their special weather-controlling powers this year. I like using run-on sentences and ideas. It's Jimmie's time to shine, like the sun won't during Spring Fair because it'll probably rain unless Reel Big Fish can use their fun ska-punk horns to blow away the sad clouds.” Ring Shair then began taking off his clothes while screaming, “I am a golden god.”

He was then put down by Joseph Micali. There can only be one all powerful figure here at Hopkins, and that, my friends, is Ms. D.

The HOP immediately used their cellies to dial up Jimmie, and wouldn't you know, he was in his shack, feeding his chickens, waiting for a gig. It should be noted that Jimmie hasn't had a gig since last year's Spring Fair, where they really didn't have a gig but they got close. Give them a break, America! When asked to play their college-friendly tune (“Do Right”) several times as a commencement speech, they agreed wholeheartedly. Hopkins officials then mentioned the fact that they would not be paid, as Hopkins does not pay its commencement speakers.

Jimmie hung up. Jimmie didn't call back. If you read this, Jimmie's Chicken Shack, help us. Help us, help you. Help us, help you!

Freshman feels empty after series of random, meaningless hook-ups

By JACKIE JENNINGS
Sexy Time Correspondent

On Sunday evening, Carry Mulroy changed her Facebook status.

“Coming to college, I thought I was looking for fun, you know? Random play. I just didn't know what that really meant.”

Mulroy, hailing from Northern New Jersey, came to Hopkins after making a clean break with her “high school boyfriend” of 7 months, Tyler Grunden. Grunden, a track and soccer star opted to stay at home and attend the local county college.

“Look, it's not that I cared that Tyler went to community college. It really doesn't matter to me at all. Good for him. It's a really, really good community college. That kind of thing doesn't matter to me at all, really. I just needed to be myself for awhile,” Mulroy explained.

Upon arriving at Hopkins, Mulroy received more male attention than she ever had in high school. “It was like, there were so many kinds of guys from all over the Northeast and they thought I was decently hot. It was awesome at first.”

Mulroy filled her first weekends going to the Den and various frat parties, most notably SAE, WaWa and PhiPsi. “Look, I'm no angel,” Mulroy admits. “I drank in high school so it's not like I didn't know what was up. But college is so different. And no one really warns you about that.”

At first Mulroy was content playing the young coquette at various parties, imbibing everything from Natty Boh to apple pie shots. And the guys she met made her feel sexy and independent.

“I felt just like Carrie Bradshaw from Sex and the City only in old row houses in Baltimore,” giggles Mulroy. It was at PhiPsi that Mulroy experienced her first college hookup with junior lacrosse team member Andrew Santos. “He was checking me out all night,” remembers Mulroy. “And one of his friends came over and told me Andrew thought I was the hottest freshman in the room. It was so cute.”

The two traded a few words and relocated upstairs to Santos's room where Mulroy thought about “how far” she should go. The two “made out for awhile” until Santos's roommate requisi-

tioned the room for himself and Mulroy's friend Katy Smith.

“Andy was really sweet and walked me all the way to the corner outside the house,” says Mulroy. “But when we got there we decided to just be friends.”

Santos could not be reached for comment.

After this initiation into the world of college hook ups, Mulroy went through a period of confused elation. Sophomore and Mulroy friend Melissa Recher remembers giving the freshman advice. “I told her to always ask a friend if the guy was hot before making out with him. It would be so horrible to do a guy only to find out the next day he was fat or something.”

But despite Recher's guidance, Mulroy felt herself begin to spiral. She was attending parties, becoming desperately drunk and going

home with “really random, kind of ugly guys.” And the drinking took its toll on her figure.

“I started to get a giant gut. At first I thought I was pregnant but then I realized it was just beer and Uni Mini chicken parm.” The pain in

Mulroy's voice is palpable when discussing this phase of her life.

“I would go to parties and no one would even look at me. No matter how much black eyeliner I put on...” her voice trails away. Mulroy says she hit rock bottom just before Spring Break this year.

“We were at the Den when this really drunk guy came up to our table and started hitting on all my friends. He wasn't wearing a shirt and called himself ‘Super Nacho’. None of my friends were having it but I just felt like I needed to make out with someone. So he bought me a beer and we hooked up right there. I don't even know his name.”

When the photos were posted on Facebook the next day, Mulroy realized she needed a change. She started going to the gym once a week and spending up to 20 minutes on the elliptical. She also made cuts in her partying. “I only go to good frats on weekends and PJ's when there are specials.”

Mulroy feels good about her changed life. “It had to happen. I've grown up so much and now I'm ready for what's next.”

And what might that be? “A relationship and/or friendship” she proudly declares. “It's on Facebook.”

I would go to parties and no one would even look at me. No matter how much black eyeliner I put on...

— FRESHMAN CARRY MULROY

City: Gilman is “unsafe” (except for students)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
safe.

“I don't know what you're talking about,” he said. “I was just in Gilman Hall a couple

CONTINUED ON PAGE A2

months ago, and it was perfectly safe. The engineers have assured me that students can stay in the building indefinitely.”

City health codes state that all buildings must have “firm foundational support” and “sturdy walls” – neither of which Gilman Hall has, according to University officials.

“University engineers have warned us repeatedly that there has been a strange creaking noise coming from one of the walls on the main floor,” said one University official. “That's when we started looking into moving the faculty to an auxiliary building. Fortunately, most of them have been relocated.”

Rachel Stephens, a sophomore History of Art major, expressed concern for the aging state of the building.

“I think it's terrible that the University will have to raze one of last remaining symbols of the humanities on this campus,” she said. “I'm also concerned that it's unsafe for students to be inside.”

Michael Azaria, a senior Writing Seminars major, expressed doubts over the University's claim that the building was unsafe.

“I've been here for almost four years, and the University has said a lot of things,” he said. “They told us they were going to change food providers. They told us they were going to increase financial aid. Now they're telling us Gilman is going to collapse. Well, I'm sorry, but, I'm not buying it.”

Officials said the University had plans to give out hard hats and maps of the underground tunnel system to the first 100 students to enter Gilman Hall on Monday, as a promotional giveaway sponsored by the JHU Alumni Association.

HOP donates \$4.1 million to fund Mr. Mister reunion album

By BRET MICHAELS
Nostalgia Correspondent

In the latest effort from their controversial Cling On To Fading Youth Project, the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) has agreed to donate \$4.1 million dollars to finance a reunion album by iconic 1980's pop group, Mr. Mister.

The project has most recently been responsible for planning major concerts on the JHU campus featuring (quoted from the press release): “Everyone's favorite bands from the fifth-to-eighth grade: Everclear, Reel Big Fish, and Bone Thugs-N-Harmony.”

Mr. Mister, made famous from their #1 hit Broken Wings, achieved commercial success in the mid-to-late 1980s, before unexpectedly breaking up during the recording of their fourth album, Pull.

“Imagine what it could have been like if they had stayed together through the 1990's. Pull was going to be like Mr. Mister's Smile,” said HOP President Paul Eisenbruch, referring to the Beach Boys then-unfinished follow-up to Pet Sounds.

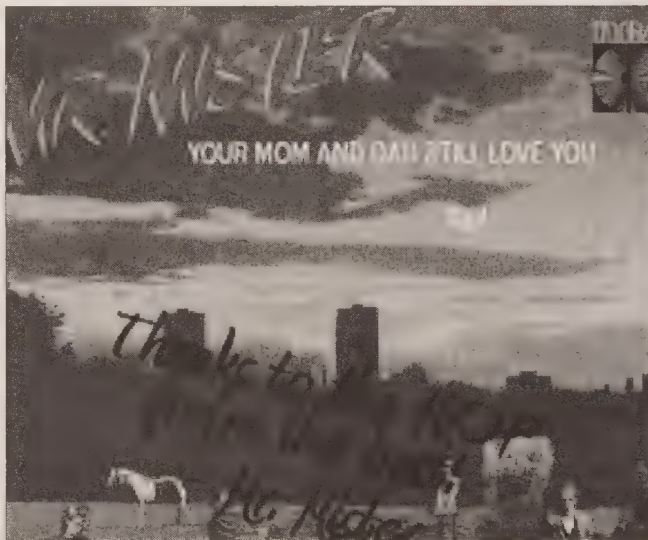
“Their smooth atmospheric pop melodies would have definitely stopped people's parents from getting a divorce,” said Eisenbruch, holding back tears, before trailing off into an emotional rendition of the band's single. “So take these broken wings, and learn to fly again, learn to live so free...”

When reached for comment, Mr. Mister front man Richard Page described his meeting with HOP representatives at a restaurant in downtown Los Angeles. “I made it clear that under no circumstance would I agree to this. I have a family and a job teaching high school English. Music is something I long since left behind,” said Page.

“All of a sudden, one of them, an Asian kid, slides me a napkin and a pen. I wrote down the biggest number I could think of just to humor them, to which the other kid responds, ‘We'll get back to you.’”

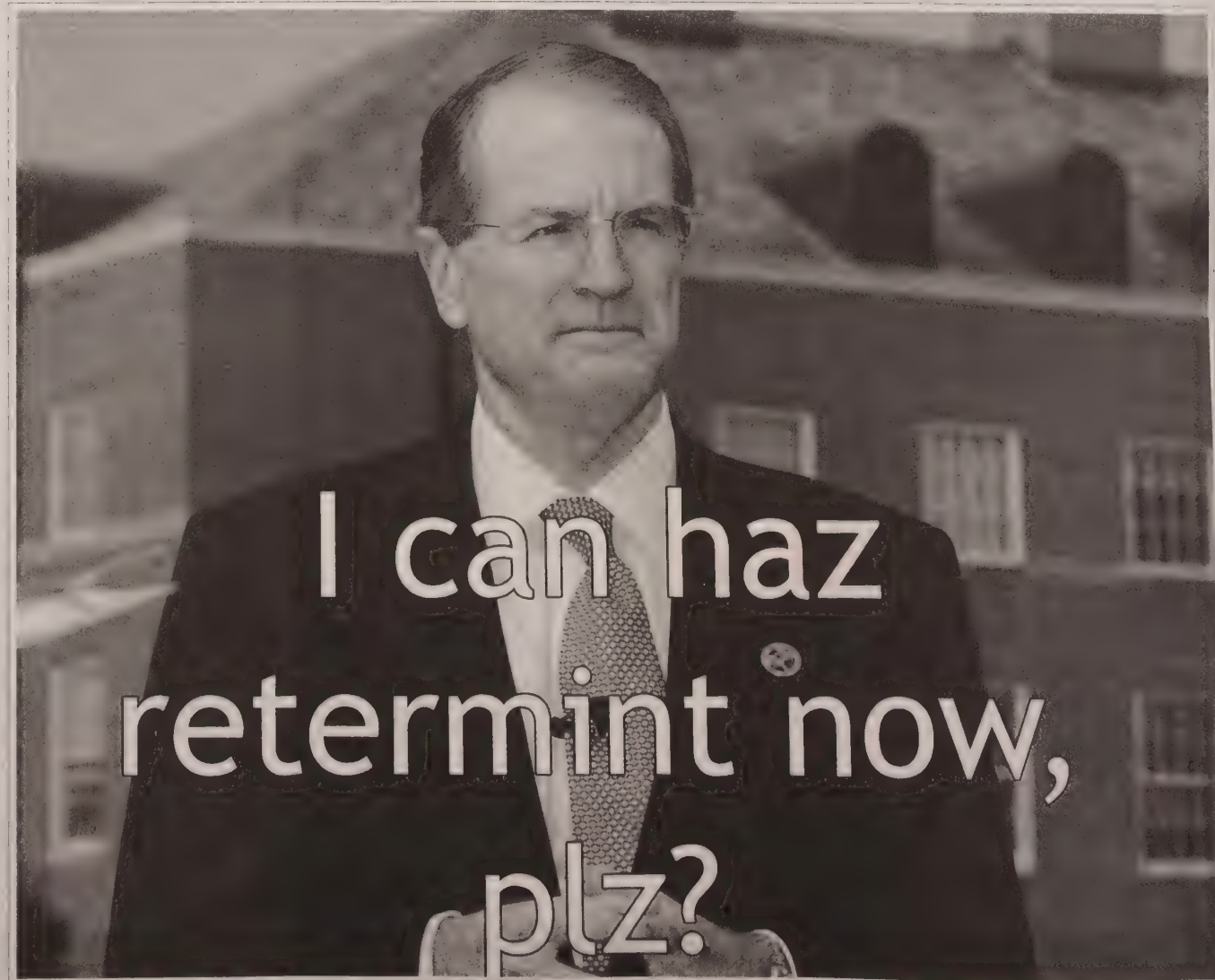
“The guys from the band have been incredibly gracious and kind. They even allowed several of us to give creative input on the album,” said Eisenbruch.

Mr. Mister is set to release their new album, entitled Mom And Dad Will Always Love You, in the fall of 2008.



COURTESY OF MR. MISTER INC

The HOP will finance iconic 1980's pop group Mr. Mister's comeback album.



Carrollton Record writer pens “fair, accurate” story

By BA ROCKO BAMA
Presidential Candidate, WHAT

When freshman Joseph Lieberman arrived on campus for the first time, he saw a lot of things he didn't like.

“For one, nobody here seemed to be outraged by things like special treatment for minorities or tolerance for homosexuals,” he said. “It really got me thinking: Somebody should take a stand.”

He added: “I decided that person could probably, I guess, be me.”

Lieberman initially tried writing for The News-Letter, the University's independent student newspaper, but with little success.

“They just weren't interested in differing points of view,” he said. “It was like this petty, schoolyard payback type of thing where, just because I didn't like homosexuals or people of different faiths, they didn't like me. They were total water carriers for the crazy, left-wing inter-nuts. Or, as I like to call them, douche-blogs.”

He added: “Fortunately, I soon realized that nobody – and I mean nobody – reads a word in that liberal rag.”

So Lieberman went to the only place he could – The Carrollton Record, Hopkins' conservative and as-yet unidentified-type-of-news-media-publication (is it a newspaper or a mail-order catalogue or what?).

He pitched an idea for a controversial exposé on how University administrators were using intellectual propaganda and progressive, mainstream opinions to shove anti-American ideas of tolerance and multiculturalism down the throats of tolerant and multicultural Hopkins students.

“I even volunteered to do the covert art, even though I had no experience using PhotoShop,” he said. “They really loved that.”

So Lieberman got to work. But as he started writing his 3,000-word treatise on the reasons why “America fucking rocks the shit out of the Middle East,” he got a novel idea.

“I thought: Why don't I go out and talk to some people about this, and see what they think,” he said. “The only thing more American than one person shouting his opinions at the top of his lungs is a chorus of people shouting their opinions at the top of their lungs. Together.”

Lieberman soon found, however, that genuinely reporting a story, and doing so accurately, was something of a Herculean task.

“To my surprise, most of the people I talked to disagreed with me. Some people even had personal experiences that were entirely incongruous with my preconceived ideological beliefs,” he said.

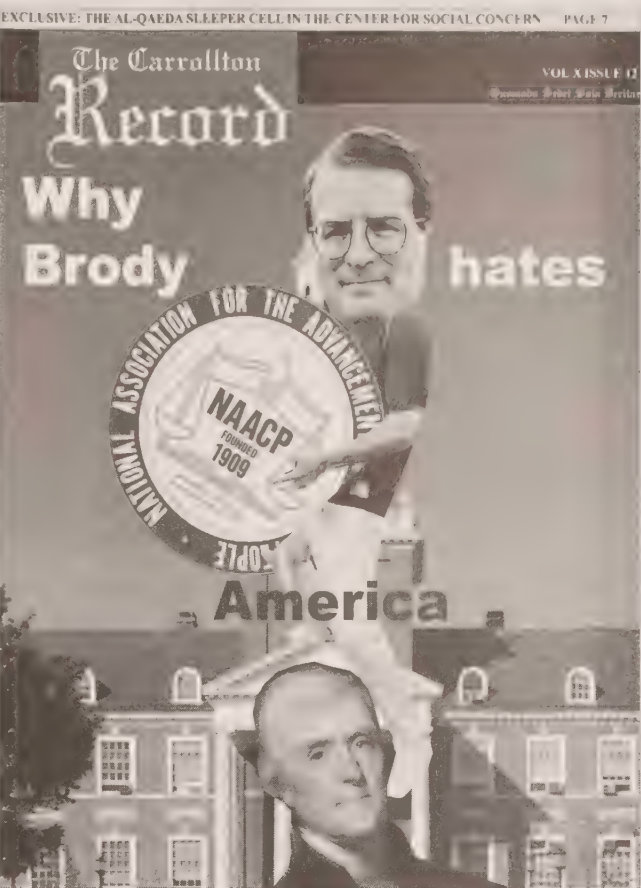
“It totally sucked.” As payback for “totally ruining his idea,” and “to prove once and for all that the United States really does rock the shit out of the Middle East,” he decided to shame the people he had talked to by including them in the article.

“I thought: Man, they are really going to have egg all over their faces once all the people who read The Carrollton Record see how progressive and informed they are,” he said.

In the end, Lieberman ended up with an emotionally raw, intellectually sophisticated meditation on the state of race relations at Hopkins, drawing on the personal stories of the people he interviewed to paint a nuanced portrait of undergraduate life at Hopkins.

Unfortunately, his editors were not impressed.

“They were really fucking pissed,” he said. “They had reserved all this cover space for a



COURTESY OF THE CARROLLTON RECORD
This Photoshopped cover of The Carrollton Record's April issue was scrapped after it turned out freshman Joseph Lieberman wrote a story that was accurate and fair.

poorly photostopped picture of President Brody having sex with the logo of the NAACP, while kicking Thomas Jefferson in the face.”

Lieberman says he is still on good terms with the editors of The Carrollton Record, and hopes to live up to their non-existent standards for journalistic ethics in the future.

“They did give me credit for moxie, and for thinking outside the box — before they accused me of being an agent of the poisonous left-wing ideology that has corrupted our American val-

ues and destroyed our country,” he said.

“They also called me an ‘Islamofascist,’ even though I’m obviously Jewish.”

Editors at The Carrollton Record were unavailable for comment Wednesday night. They were busying searching people's Facebook profiles for the term “underrepresented minority” and illegally collecting their profile pictures for a cover story entitled: “How President Brody's hard-on for colored people is destroying our way of life.”

Apathy turns deadly for Hopkins senior

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
Michaelson's death, finally listing it as “Suicide by uncontrolled laziness”.

“I've never seen anything like this,” Dr. Yatsalagos exclusively told the Newsletter. “There was nothing wrong with this kid other than unadulterated laziness. I can't believe I'm saying this but he just ... neglected to stay alive.”

Dr. Yatsalagos first believed the cause of death might have been Bugle related only to find that Michaelson was perfectly healthy and no external influences contributed to his death. Further inquiry into Michaelson's personality and lifestyle confirmed Yatsalagos's suspicions that Michaelson's death was self-inflicted.

“I wouldn't even say ‘inflicted’ because that would imply some agency or effort,” Yatsalagos struggled to explain. “More like self-accepted.”

Friends fondly remember Michaelson as always having his door open to whomever should stop by his room. “He thought it was retarded to close his door because he was going to have to open it again eventually,” recalls RA Steve Macy. “So you could walk past any hour of the day and there was Mike in his beanbag chair. Really, anytime.”

Laney Harrison remembers one recent conversation with Mike. “We were talking about the presidential election and Mike was like, ‘Who cares? All politicians are the same. I'm not even going to vote. Fuck it.’ He was so right.”

When asked if he was surprised by the manner of Michaelson's death Gunter Hall responded, “Nah, not really. It's so like Mike. It's kind of funny when you think about it. You know, I mean, dumb.”

In lieu of services, all of Michaelson's friends are encouraged to think about him next Friday sometime around 2pm if they feel like it. “It's totally not traditional,” explains Harrison, “but it's totally what Mike would have been okay with.”



Exposure
By Conor Kevitt

Surprise!

If you haven't already caught on, this is the April Fool's edition of the News-Letter. The fantastic, good-looking, brilliant and hilarious editors have worked tirelessly to bring you this issue. Enjoy, and remember to have a sense of humor and not overreact. These stories are fake.

Sudoku!

1				8			2
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News In Brief

Prez Brody: Peace out, bitchez!

President Brody recently announced to the JHU community that he would be retiring at the end of 2008, saying that had “served [his] time” and was “done with this wack job.”

Brody elaborated on his decision at a news conference held at the salad bar in Nolan's. “I'm just done with it, you know? This job was fly enough for a while—kept food in the fridge and the bitch in the crib.” Asked by a hungry reporter if he was indicating marital problems with his long-time spouse Wendy, Brody rolled his eyes and said “Don't even get me started...Let's just say that patents don't get her nearly as wet as Benzes do.”

Asked if there were any specific frustrations that were driving his decision to leave, Brody told the assembled line of listeners “Yeah, one specific frustration. One very specific frustration: this place fucking sucks. The gym doesn't have enough elliptical machines, I fall on my ass every time it rains in the winter, and it's a damn long walk from that stupid house they make me live in to Uni Mini...Yo! Go easy on the Ranch and put some more croutons on there!”

“I don't want to come back neither,” Brody continued, “so don't come asking me to consult or be on some committee or some shit. Give me one more platinum plaque and fuck rap, you can have it back.” The assembled crowd was quite impressed after a kid with a laptop did a Google search and told everyone that President Brody had just executed a textbook Dr. Dre reference.

Smelling something promising, another reporter asked Brody if his resignation was in any way related to the scandal over the controversial remarks made by former university chaplain Taylor Winthrop regarding the discovery of asbestos in Gilman Hall. Winthrop delivered a sermon at a meeting of the University's Board of Trustees two years ago, saying in part “And now there's asbestos in Gilman! Of course there is! For years, we've been making kids go to 9am physics classes, giving them shitty food, and overcharging them for printing. I say that Hopkins' chickens have come home to roost!”

President Brody denied that his resignation had anything to do with Chaplain Winthrop's comments, claiming that he wasn't even present at the board meeting at which Winthrop made those statements.

After retrieving his salad, President Brody skipped out of Nolan's, shouting over his shoulder “See you on the flip side, suckaz!”

— by Adar Eisenbruch

Professor of public health eats raw eggs, gets violent, ironic shits

Professor of Public Health Margaret Imaya attempted to make chocolate chip cookies with her daughter on Saturday evening. Witnesses reported that Professor Imaya got tempted by the raw cookie dough, however, and consumed at least 4 tablespoonfuls of it before putting the cookies in the oven. What happened next may scar Imaya and her family for years.

According to 8-year-old Sally Imaya, “Mommy got a real pale look on her face, and looked scared like there was a monster in her pants and she didn't want to make it angry. Then she walked real fast to the bathroom and locked the door. She stayed in there a long time.”

Professor Imaya was still in the restroom when the timer went off, indicating that the cookies were ready to be removed from the over. Sally, knowing that she's not allowed to open the oven when it's on, announced the news to her mother through the bathroom door. Imaya's response was less than encouraging. “Her voice sounded sad and tired, like after that time she cried for an hour because Daddy kept having to stay at the office really late at night, until after I already went to bed. She said a bad word that I'm not allowed to say, then she said ‘Just let them burn. I'll be out soon.’”

“By the time Mommy got out of the bathroom, it smelled like the nasty corner of the dog run at the park, and I knew the cookies were burnt. But Mommy didn't even take them out of the oven. She just turned the oven off and told me to give myself a bath, because she had to go lay down for a while.” The younger Imaya continued, “I was sad, because I really wanted those cookies.”

Upon hearing the news, Professor of Irony Winchester McBritishvoice was overjoyed. “As you might imagine,” he explained, “this is quite a boon for us in the Department of Irony. Because, you see, as a professor of public health, you would expect Imaya to know full well not to consume raw eggs. And yet she did. And got some serious shits because of it. It's a delightful story, really.”

Mere minutes later, Professor McBritishvoice had to excuse himself to change his shorts after learning that a professor of computer engineering had gotten a virus on his PC.

— by Adar Eisenbruch

The best sex I've ever had

My faithful readers, this week I would like to share one of my most memorable and amazing sexual experiences to date. Of course someone in my position has a lot of sex, I mean a lot of sex, but none of those encounters can compare to this, the single greatest sexual experience I have ever had.

It all began easily enough. After pregaming at a friend's house with some margaritas we headed over to our favorite bar where all the hot, cocky guys from Hopkins hang out. We walked into the place, found our friends and begun dancing, drinking and chatting — a typical Wednesday night.

I spent a lot of time that night talking with this cutie named Johnny about my favorite class— Kant's Critique of Practical Reason. I mean that class is just so amazing. I told him how I thought that Kant's theories on reason were all wrong and that I had a new theory that could revolutionize the field. He seemed interested.

Johnny bought me a few drinks and we played some pool, I am so terrible at that game! After he showed me how to hit the ball properly I got a little better. It was so sweet of him to show me how to play, and the way that he stood behind me and held the stick with me was really getting me hot and bothered.

Afterwards we made it out onto the dance floor and things really started to get intense. He and I were sweaty, drunk and horny and he was grinding on me pretty hard. It was great.

Then things took a turn for the worst when I looked up at Johnny and realized he was a little pale. Next thing I know he's got his hand over his mouth and is running into the bathroom. Well after he had been in there for 15 minutes I lost interest and figured my chances for getting laid that night were nil.

I said my goodbyes to my friends and sauntered out of the bar, still very drunk and kinda

turned on. As I walked back to my house, I began fantasizing about all things Johnny could have done to me tonight, if only he could have kept his liquor down. Stupid freshman.

I decided to play a little game with myself on the way home. I like to call it, "figure out how drunk I am by trying to walk a straight line in 4-inch heels."

As I was meandering down East University towards my place I heard footsteps behind me. First I thought it was one of my girlfriends who had decided to come home with me. However, when I realized I didn't hear the click of high heels I figured it was

Johnny, having recovered from his gastrointestinal nightmare. I start walking seductively, you know, like the models on Project Runway, just like that.

So here I was, swinging my hips and shaking my tush down East University at two in the morning, trying to give Johnny a good show as he walked behind me.

As I passed an alley I heard Johnny's steps quicken. "Oh good, he's finally going to make his move."

The next thing I know he's got me pinned up with my face against the red bricks. Now this was the hot and steamy situation I had in mind.

Luckily I was wearing a skirt so he had easy access. He was running his hands all over my trembling body (I can make myself tremble on cue, guys find it very sexy), grabbing my boobs, my butt and even my vajayjay. I liked it.

I started talking dirty to him, to let him know I liked it. "Don't stop," I said. "Baby I've been thinking about this moment all night, just waiting for you to do

this to me."

He responded by putting his hand over my mouth and pushing my up against the wall even harder. One of my friends must have mentioned that I like it rough.

"Don't say a fucking word or I'll leave you here to die when I'm through with you," he whispered seductively in my ear.

He must have noticed how turned on I was getting because from there we began to have sex. He turned me around, sat me up on some garbage cans and began to thrust.

It was at this point I realized he had a big sweatshirt on with the hood pulled down. I figured, "Hot, I can't even see his face, this is so nasty."

He pounded me for a good ten minutes before he just couldn't hold out any longer and came right inside me. Wow, I'm getting turned on all over again just from writing this.

I looked up at him afterwards to see how well I had satisfied him, but he still had that hood on.

"Take off your hood so I can see how good I made you feel," I said.

He replied, "Shut the fuck up bitch, I'll never let you see my face." I thought it was pretty sexy that he was staying in character so I let him keep it up.

It was pretty late and I was wiped, so I took Johnny's hand and begun to lead him back to my place, but he said, "Woah ho, where in the hell do you think I'm going?"

I told him I wanted him to spend the night with me, but he responded with "Listen, I don't spend the night. That's just not how I roll, you feel me?"

I told him I felt him and he ran away towards Greenmount. I, in my post-coital stupefied state, made it home and crashed.

When I saw Johnny in class on Monday I thanked him for the amazing night and all he did was apologize for getting sick so early on in the evening. I guess he blacked out for the rest of the night. I'm going to ask him to the spring formal.



Dawn
Riverside
Hopkins Ho



CAN OF KETCHUP/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Despite this awesome play by Eric Lipinsky, the junior was unable to take home a lady from a frat party last Saturday night.

Lacrosse player fails to attract girl at party despite awesome stats

By YOHAN SANTANA
Sports & Leisure Correspondent

Junior midfielder Eric Lipinsky was still reeling this week from what authorities and other dudes on the Men's Lacrosse team described as an unforeseen and "totally uncool" decision not to sleep with him by a girl at a frat party Saturday night, despite the fact the he currently has really awesome stats.

Lipinsky's teammates described the Greenwich, Conn. native as "baffled" and "totally in shock" that he couldn't even get the girl to give him head by cornering her in the basement of the Pi Kappa Alpha ("Pike") house and regaling her with tales of his unprecedented athletic feats.

"He really can't concentrate on anything other than what happened at this point," said Senior Attackman Brian Muehler. "We've been trying to get his mind off things, but he keeps muttering to himself about how he was the third-highest goal scorer on the team last year, and how he almost made All-American in 2006."

"I even told her about how I got to meet the President because I was such a force on and off the field," Lipinsky told The News-Letter by phone from his Connecticut residence, where he

is currently undergoing psychological treatment and considering taking the semester off.

"I have so many goddamned assists," he said.

Head Coach Dave Pietramala was also stunned by the news. "It's heartbreaking, it really is," he said. "Lipinsky has always been a powerhouse forward, and a team player, too. He scores pretty consistently but he's also a good passer, a dazzling stick-handler and quick on his feet. I'm surprised none of that convinced this girl to have sex with him."

"Did he tell her he met the President?" he asked. When told by a reporter that he had, Pietramala abruptly ended the interview and began crying softly into his baseball cap.

Michael Saltzman, resident historian at the U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame, said stories like Lipinsky's were rare but not uncommon in the history of the sport. He added that setbacks like the one Lipinsky experienced are always hard to come back from.

"It really is damaging to a player's psyche," he said. "This case is especially troubling because, to my understanding, [Lipinsky] was third in the league in shots on goal and tied for first in assists. How does that not get you laid?"

Reports began to surface early Wednesday that the girl Lipinsky set his sights on was an impressionable and "precocious" freshman who friends described as a "social climber" and "future Girl Gone Wild," further damaging Lipinsky's reputation.

"It's hard — not many guys on the team have much respect for him anymore," said Sophomore Defenseman Eric Lichtefeld. "I mean, I don't lead the league in anything and I was all up in that freshman [expletive] Saturday night."

"It's really sad," he added. "He did have a lot of assists."

Rumors circulated within the lacrosse community and on the internet that Lipinsky may lose his full-tuition scholarship as a result of the incident. University officials released a brief statement Wednesday saying they were "shocked" and "dismayed" at the news of Lipinsky's "unprecedented crash and burn," and that, while they "kept Lipinsky and his family in their prayers," all options were on the table to protect the University's reputation.

Lipinsky has been temporarily replaced on the team by a sophomore who did, in fact, "come home with a handful of boobie" Saturday night, according to University officials.

Wiretap leads to apprehension of seven undergraduates

By OMAR LITTLE
Bad-Ass Mother

A sweep of Hollander by campus police on Tuesday concluded a semester-long investigation conducted by Housing and Dining. The investigation, which included an expensive wiretap, led to the apprehension of seven freshmen who have been linked to a smuggling operation at Fresh Foods Cafe.

At a press conference held at Wolman Hall, head of campus security gave a spirited talk in front of a table of up to a hundred salt and pepper shakers, though sources say that silverware and napkin holders were also seized from the students' dorms.

"This is a great step forward in an ongoing war," said Dining Services coordinator Dana Miller. "They were caught with the dope on the table," she said in reference to discovering a butter knife in the folds of a used copy of Washington Square.

Miller was quick to give credit to the Major Petty Crimes Unit, who ran the wiretap: "Without them, this operation wouldn't have gone further than Asian

kids stealing napkins from the corner of the salad bar. Luckily, the missing trays and Italian dressing packets really gave this case some legs."

The Barksdale operation, named after smuggling kingpin Kevin Barksdale (a freshman sociology major), used a complicated series of signals and codes via cellular phone that took seven weeks and over 100 man-hours to crack.

"It was all just a bunch of gibberish," said MCPU lead investigator

Mark Freamon, "until we started noticing a pattern. Just a few words here and there — that 'long metal thing,' the

'soup holder thing.' It wasn't before long that we realized they were talking about spoons and bowls."

The seven students charged are currently suspended from Fresh Foods Cafe. Kevin Barksdale, whose hobbies include "chillin'" and "being a baller", will be facing charges of up to fifteen dollars for damages.

When asked about what the future held for Major Petty Crimes, Freamon responded, "We're working on a couple of things, now, so it's too early to say. I can tell you this. We're very close to uncovering the identity of Mike_in_Griffin, the pornography king of DC++."



A wiretap lead to the apprehension of seven Hollander House boys, caught smuggling food from FFC.

When a News-Letter moment turns into the right moment, you will soon be ready!

NEWSLETRA

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nolunch
ON 33RD

What's Happenin' At Nolunch:

**Always telling your friends
“Dude, this food is so bad,
I could totally make it
myself”? Well, here's your
chance!**



**We've decided you're right!
Starting April 7th, we're
introducing**

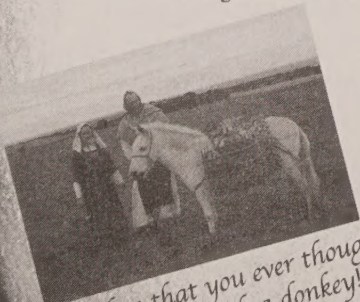
**BRING YOUR OWN FOOD
DAY! Use our ovens,
wear our hairnets, and enjoy
homecooked food- your own!**



Disclaimer: Nolunch on 33rd hereby cedes that the students of this university are licensed to replace all Nolunch staff in the operations of this institution, after internal review finds Nolunch food currently at an 'Absymal' on the Food Chart for the Imprisoned and Institutionalized.

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buddies!



Gruel and mutton rations provided!

Two-term fictional president takes reigns at JHU

Continued from Page 1
degree in English literature, philosophy and theology.

Reaction to the announcement was decidedly positive. Michael Bloomberg, a Hopkins alum and long-time benefactor of the University, said he looked forward to a continuation of Sheen's intellectual, compassionate and funny Oval Office performance when he moves into his new office in Garland Hall.

"The guy's amazing. He was nominated six times for an Emmy, and he never won — he lost three times to James Gandolfini! Give me a break. But he kept showing up to work, and that kind of perseverance in the face of adversity is a great quality for a university president," Bloomberg said.

Brody, who announced his resignation on March 10, was pleased with the selection of his successor. "Martin is a brilliant actor, and his memorable presidential tenure for two terms on *The West Wing* makes me sure he can handle anything that comes his way."

Brody's wife, Wendy, is a self-described "huge" fan of *The West Wing*. Asked if that influenced

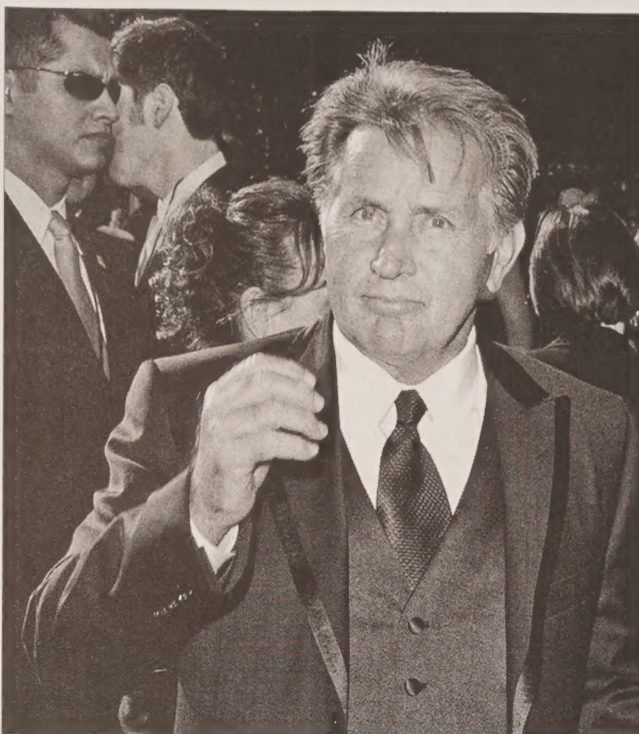
the selection process, Brody said "it might have a little bit. I mean, she and Jerry [Schnydman, executive assistant to the president] used to stay up late Wednesday nights to watch the show. Wendy cried for days after Sheen's angry confrontation with God at Mrs. Landingham's funeral."

The death of his long-time secretary, Dolores Landingham, was one of many scripted crises faced by Sheen over his seven years playing the president.

Others include the resignation of his vice president, played by Tim Matheson from *Animal House*, a nuclear meltdown in California and a public cover-up of his diagnosis with multiple sclerosis that almost forced him from television office.

"Look at all the crises he's weathered as president," said Steven David, a professor of political science and vice dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

"Bartlet was almost assassinated by white supremacists, he successfully navigated a government shutdown forced by the Speaker of the House and he temporarily handed over power to the op-



COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

Martin Sheen's hollywood experience has prepared him to succeed President Brody.

position when his daughter was kidnapped. If that doesn't quali-

fy you for the presidency of Hopkins, I don't know what does."

When told it was Sheen and not Bartlet who would be assuming the university presidency, David said, "Never mind what I said. That's messed up."

Neil Harrison, president of the Hopkins Facebook fan-group "Bartlet for America" shrieked for several minutes when told the news of Sheen's appointment.

At Sheen's request, Brody will delay his planned December 31 retirement by three weeks. Eschewing the traditional Home-wood ceremony, Sheen will be inaugurated on January 20, 2009, at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Sheen is not entirely without personal ties to Hopkins. On *The West Wing*, Bartlet's daughter, Eleanor, was a medical student at the University.

"I remember, back in the first or second season, I got mad at Ellie because she would never stop studying long enough to visit her mother and me in D.C.," Sheen said.

"So I told her, 'I thought either you transferred to a different medical school, they moved Johns Hopkins, or they moved Baltimore. Are any of those things true?' Pretty clever snark, I thought."

"Seriously, though, is Hopkins still in Baltimore? Because I've never actually been to the campus," he added.

Yoplait CEO to public: "Fancy yogurt not just for homosexuals"

By OLEG SHIK
Lifestyles Correspondent

PARIS, France — Yoplait CEO Jacques Simone vehemently denied Monday afternoon the claim that consumption of Yoplait dairy goods was exclusively for the gays.

The furor came about after Yoplait introduced a new, widely controversial brand of yogurt, titled "Yoplait with My Balls." In the midst of public outrage with the product's grossly suggestive title, Simone defended the flavor, insisting that the name shouldn't be confused with the command, "Yo, play with my balls," as many have speculated.

"Our yogurt is most certainly not just for homosexuals," Simone waived authoritatively. "You would not believe the amount of 'heteros' who time and time again purchase and enjoy our quality products." Simone then began to list all of his heterosexual friends who have at one point told him how much they enjoyed the yogurt, including his wife, Claudia. He went on for quite a while, even listing some of his pets until his wife raised her arm and began tugging on his ear.

"Yoplait with My Balls' simply comes from the ingredients within the yogurt," he re-iterated. "It's our traditional Yoplait yogurt mixed together with a hint of my grandmother's famous recipe for honey-balls. A most delicious combination."

A delicious combination, indeed. But not a flawless one. Dr.

Frederick Hicks, a professor of Nutrition and Health at the University of Virginia, dished out some heavy criticism.

"Never in my life have I seen a product labeled so inappropriately and inaccurately," says the professor. "In fact, after tasting the product, I'm convinced that this particular flavor of Yoplait tastes more like actual testicles than Mr. Simone's so-called 'honey-balls.'"

In fact, Dr. Hicks and a team of scientists at the Institute of Nutrition and Health at UVA conducted a study in which two-hundred and fifty participants were asked one simple question after a sampling of "Yoplait with My Balls": does this product taste like honey-balls...or does it taste like a sack of human testes? The results were shocking, as only two people thought that the yogurt tasted like honey. The rest responded unequivocally: "balls."

The two men who responded "honey" were asked what they thought of this particular flavor of yogurt.

"Oh my god, we just LOVED the taste of these delicious yogurt snacks! We could just eat them up all day long. And only 100 calories!" One of them exclaimed.

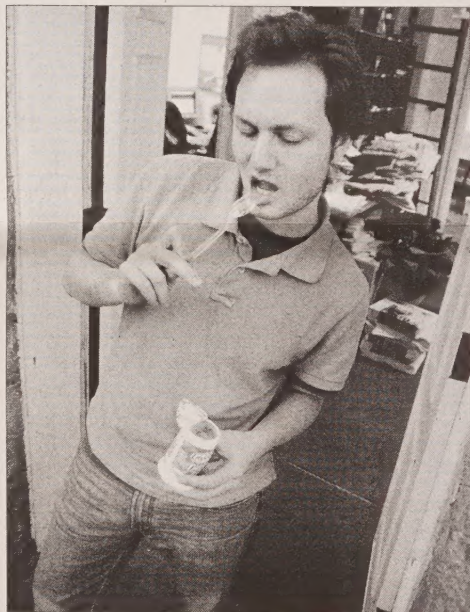
"Right on, girlfriend." The other affirmed.

"Some people just love the taste of it," Dr. Hicks then added, "and those people are most likely of the gay."

Indeed, there does seem to be a mystery behind this controversial new flavor. Whether it was

solely meant for homosexuals, the public will never know. However, this is, astoundingly, the third food-related controversy this year, beginning with TGI Friday's introduction of their famous "Cock Burger," a burger made solely from the innards of a rooster. The Yoplait controversy also comes after Mountain Dew's release last winter, titled "Mountain Dew: Rush of Piss."

There's no defending that one...that one was just piss.



LUDWIG BONN/METROSEXUAL PHOTOGRAPHER
Many people contend that Yoplait is exclusively for Homos.

Elated senior discovers meaning of college while watching TV, eating cereal

By CAPTAIN AWESOME
Superhero/Slacker Correspondent

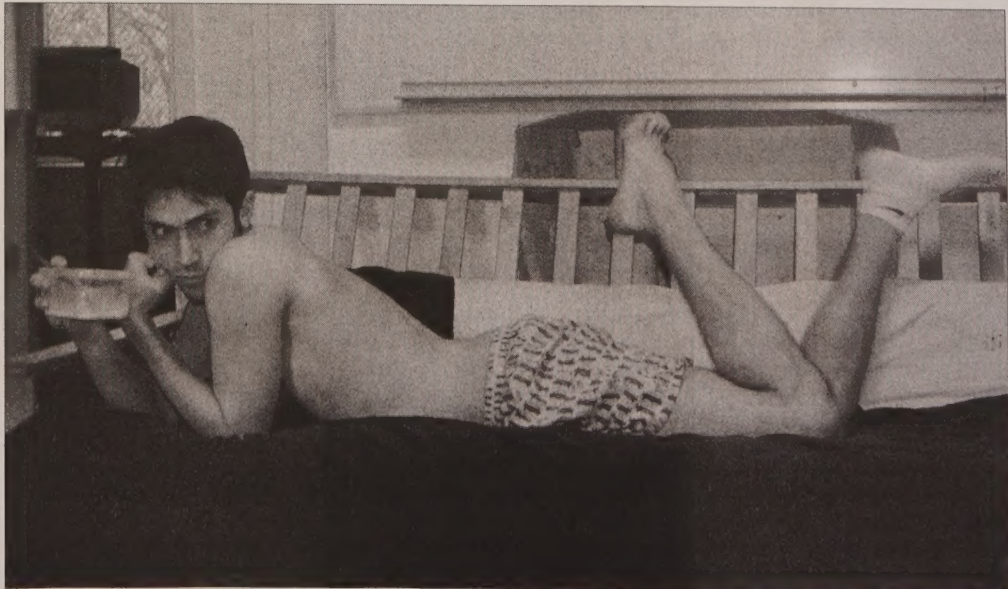
Senior Adar Eisenbruch finally experienced what college is all about on Friday, when he found himself clad only in his boxers, sitting on the tattered couch in his living room, eating cereal out of a rectangular Tupperware container, while watching an episode of "I Love Lucy" before getting ready to go to his class entitled "Animal Spirits," in which the students received a presentation on the work of Chuck Jones, the creator of many beloved Looney Tunes characters. The presentation included several Road Run-

ner and Daffy Duck cartoons, as well as the classic short "One Froggy Evening."

Eisenbruch recalled the event: "I just had this moment, when I sort of saw myself from the outside, and I thought 'Yes! This is college.' It was all so perfect. The ratty couch that my roommate's dog had chewed up. Watching Lucy try to hide a goat in the closet before Ricky got home. Eating cereal out of a rectangular Tupperware because we were out of clean bowls, and also out of clean round Tupperwares. Finally, after four years, I've figured out what this college thing is all about."

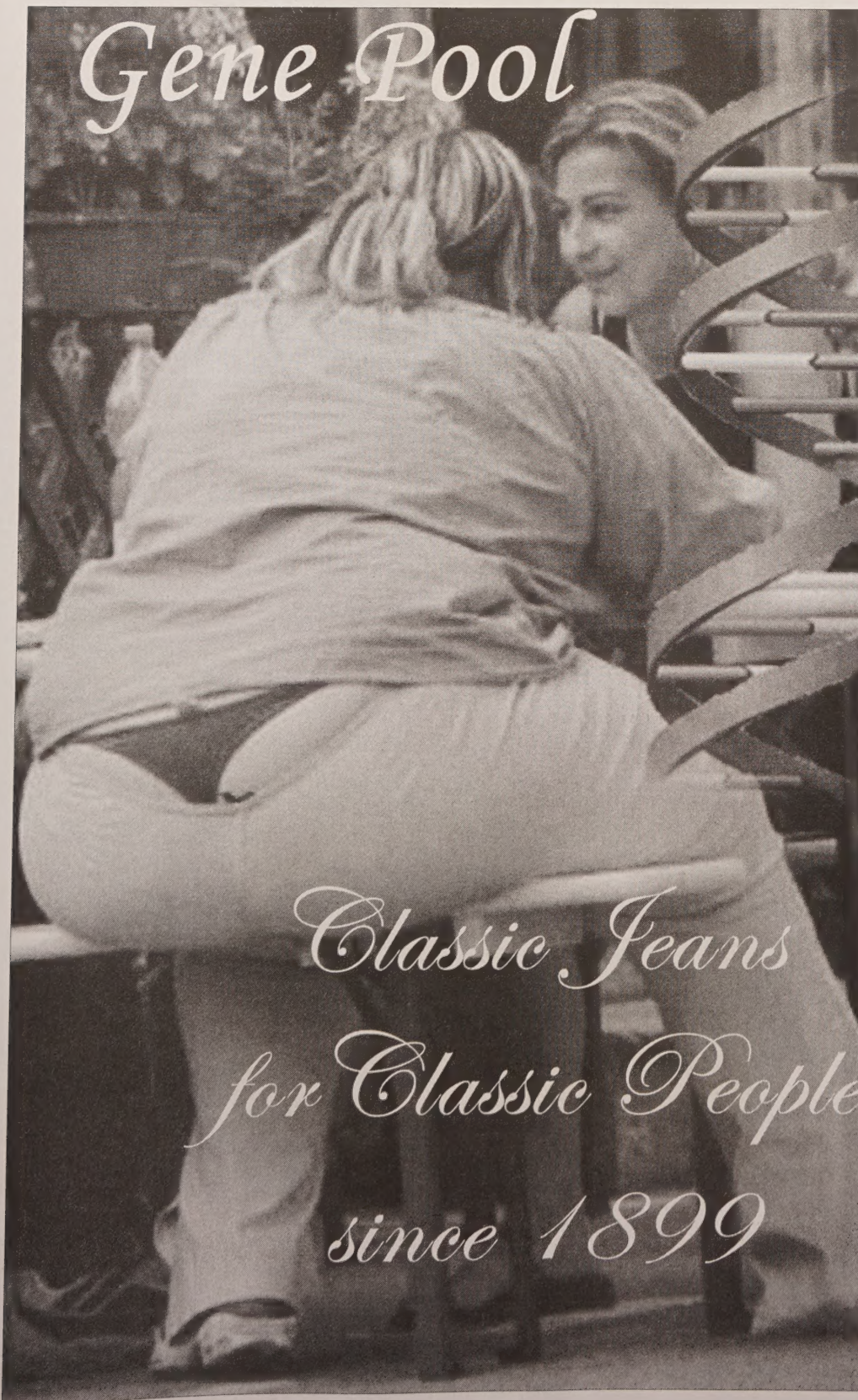
Eisenbruch's roommate, Senior Sal Grundle, stated that Eisenbruch called to him from the living room. "I was in my bedroom, and I heard Adar [Eisenbruch] tell me to come look at him." Continued Grundle, "I was worried that he was going to show me his ass or something, but instead he was just sitting there, the happiest little man-child I've ever seen. He kept saying 'Look at me. I'm a college student. Look at me. This is college. Take a picture.'"

Witnesses report that Grundle declined to take a photograph of the scantily-clad-yet-extremely-content Eisenbruch.



SMELLY TOES SALTZMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Adar Eisenbruch celebrates his new-found appreciation for college with a rectangular tupperware of cereal on the couch.



A STUDY ON EXISTENCE

Photos by Flash and Ace

